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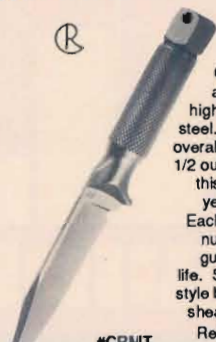
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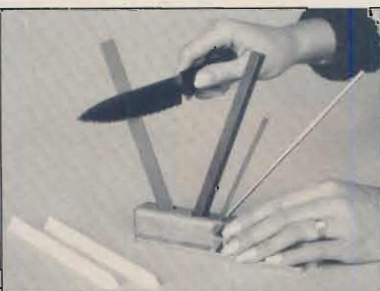
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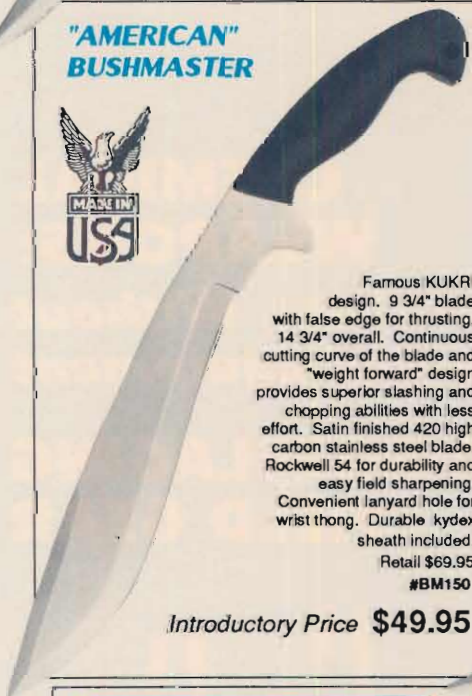
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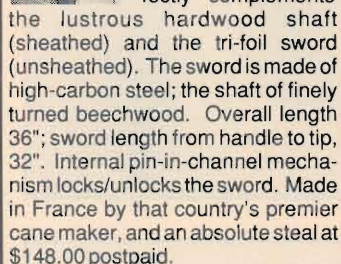
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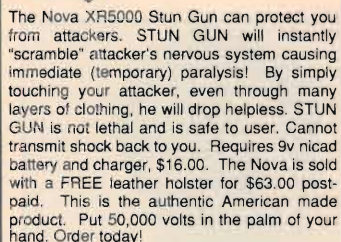
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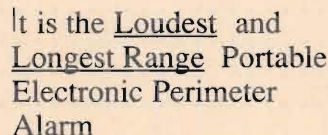
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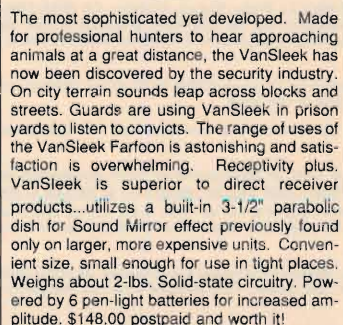


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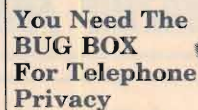
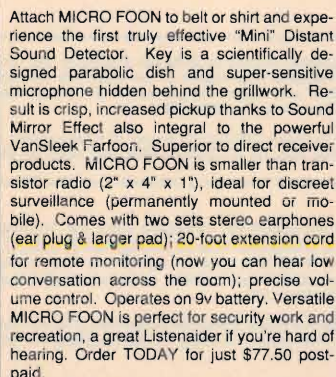
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in ASG's 1988
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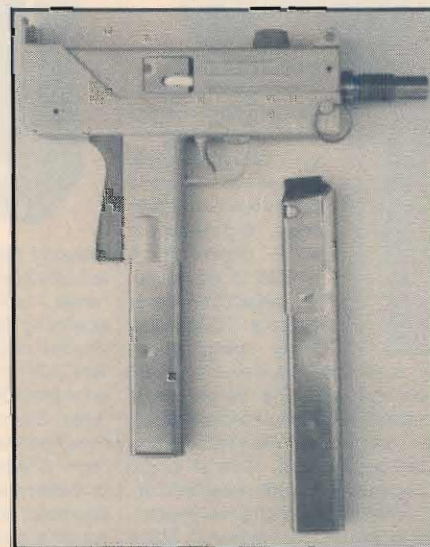
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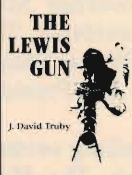
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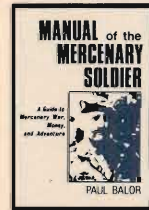
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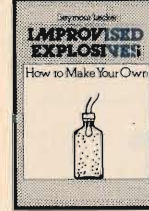
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TO THE POINT

Our media and the liberal connection . . .

THE public must learn to view the media with a jaundiced eye; to realize that news 'reporting' is but a mouthpiece of liberal propaganda, promoting a leftist political agenda. The media must, by public pressure, be forced to provide an opportunity for Americans to learn the conservative, as well as the liberal, view on current political controversies. We are not asking the media to be biased in conservatives' favor, just even-handed in their reporting."

This is from a brochure put out by the Media Research Center in Alexandria, Virginia, which publishes *Media Watch*, a monthly newsletter analyzing news and entertainment material from a conservative viewpoint.

As a newspaper reporter for many years, I slowly began to feel uneasy about what I was seeing in our news and entertainment media: its enormous power and influence and what I came to see as its strong leftist political bent and the resultant propaganda and distortion of material it presents to the public, many of whom are unaware of any bias and accept what they watch/read/hear as objective, truthful reporting. When I began working for this magazine I was struck by the hostile view of survivalists and the distorted, negative image of survivalists put out by so many in the media. I've come to regard many in our media as being unrepresentative of the mainstream of American society.

I realize there are plenty of honest, hard-working reporters, editors and others in the media who are dedicated to presenting the truth to the public, including several good friends for whom I have the greatest respect. But the evidence is mounting and irrefutable that, especially within many of the nation's largest and supposedly elite media organizations, there is an increasing concentration of individuals who are overwhelmingly biased in favor of liberal-left political thinking and causes.

These "liberals" of course are hardly liberal about public gun ownership, and they view all survivalists as extremists.

Birds of a feather flock together. It's not only an old saying but a sociological axiom. Let's take a look at the

concentration of liberals in our so-called elite news media. The Media Research Center has identified more than 100 current or former Big Media reporters, editors, producers and executives with connections to liberal politicians or groups but only 20 with ties to conservatives or Republicans.

Some examples: David Burke, ABC News executive vice president after he was chief of staff to Senator Edward Kennedy, has just been appointed president of CBS News; A month after the 1984 elections, NBC news hired Tim Russert, former chief of staff to Senator Patrick Moynihan and counselor to New York Governor Mario Cuomo, as a vice president; *Time* Magazine senior writer Walter Shapiro was a speech writer for President Jimmy Carter.

But even more compelling evidence is provided by the book, *The Media Elite*, by S. Robert Lichter, Stanley Rothman and Linda S. Lichter. The authors interviewed 238 journalists at America's most influential news organizations: the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report* and ABC, NBC, CBS and PBS. The authors found that most of these journalists came from well to do backgrounds, were well educated and considered themselves politically liberal.

Between 94 and 81 percent of them voted for the Democratic presidential candidate in elections from 1964 to 1976. Other surveys of journalists are cited in the book providing very similar results.

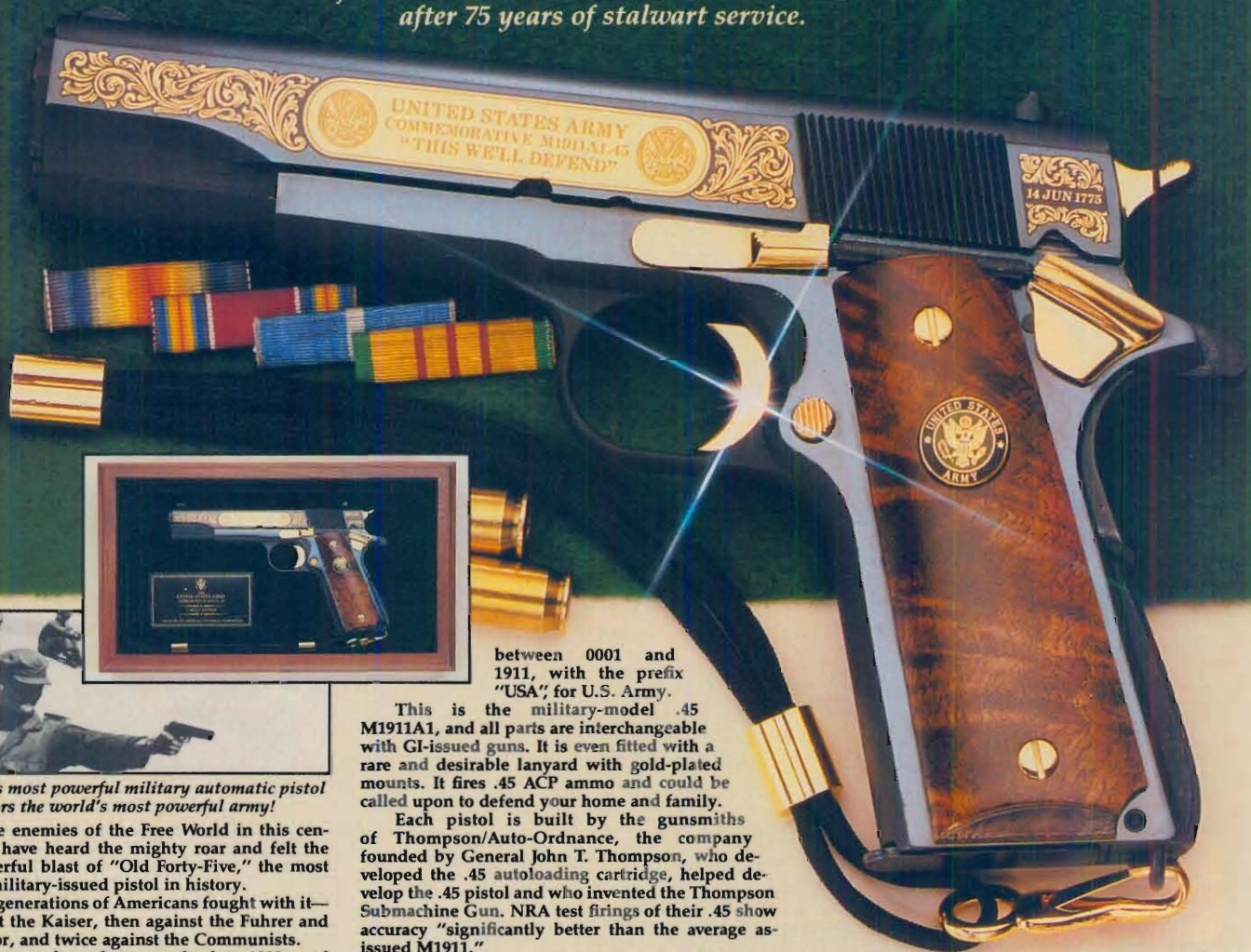
"There is no such thing as an objective reporter," according to a statement from the Media Research Center. "Human nature dictates that man be opinionated and reflect his own interests and preferences. However, the public should expect, and must demand, that reporters do all they can to keep their biases out of their product, and that news organizations present a balanced perspective to news reports."

Next time you read a newspaper, magazine or book, watch TV or listen to the radio, consider the source of your information and make your own judgement as to its credibility — *Jim Benson.* ●

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Limited Edition; Fires .45 ACP

The worldwide edition limit is only 1,911 guns, in honor of the year it was adopted for military use. This highly restricted limit guarantees rarity and collector value. Even the serial numbers are special,

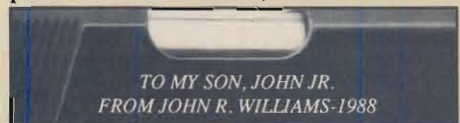
between 0001 and 1911, with the prefix "USA" for U.S. Army.

This is the military-model .45 M1911A1, and all parts are interchangeable with GI-issued guns. It is even fitted with a rare and desirable lanyard with gold-plated mounts. It fires .45 ACP ammo and could be called upon to defend your home and family.

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Personalized engraving available on right side of slide. distinctive. Matching serial numbers for all four guns are available, as is a master case that holds and displays all four cases. The entire set of four is called "The Armed Forces Commemorative .45 Collection."

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☐ Please also send the optional walnut display case, at \$85 for each Pistol reserved.

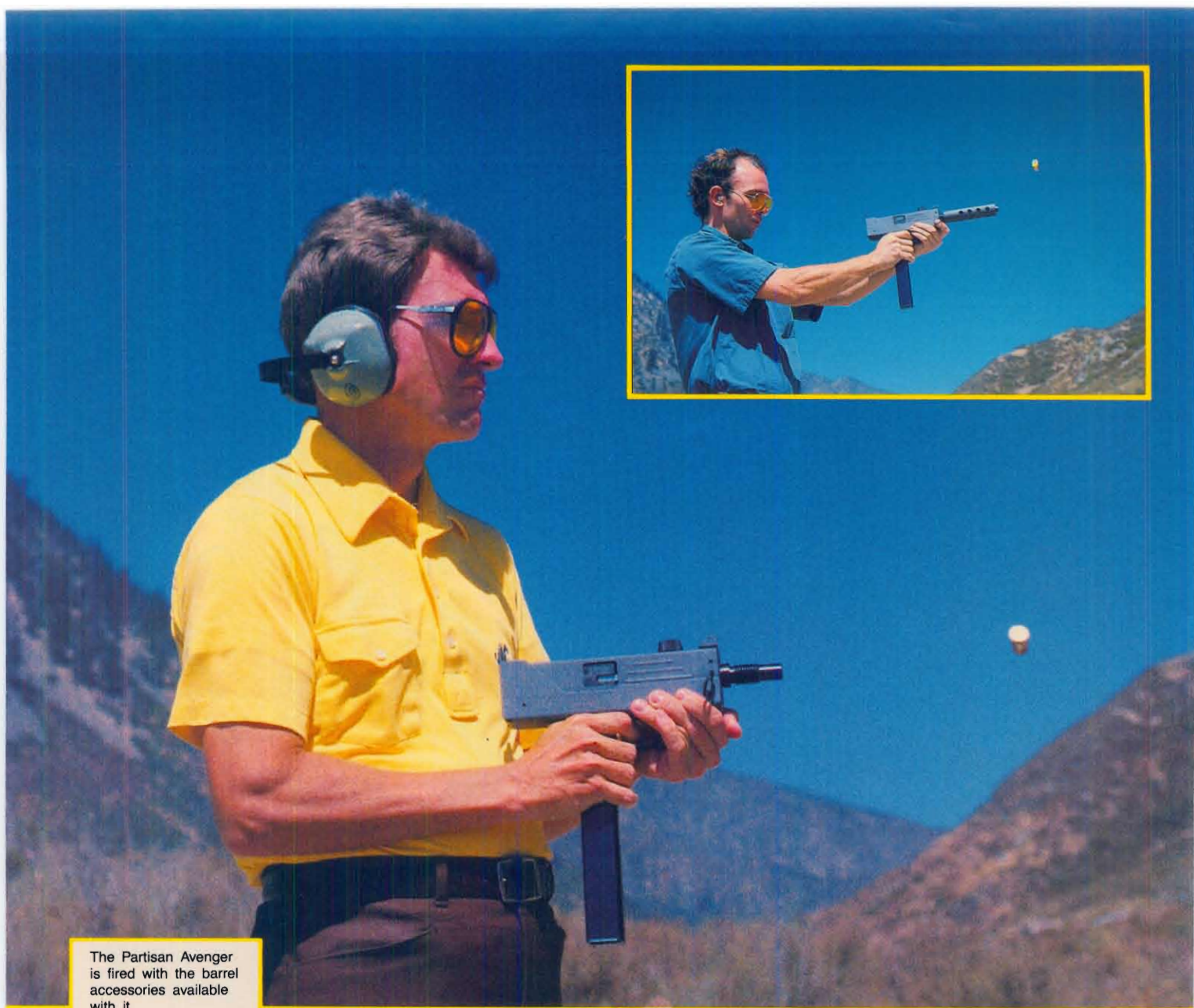
☐ Please personalize my .45, at \$25; send the Engraving Form at once.

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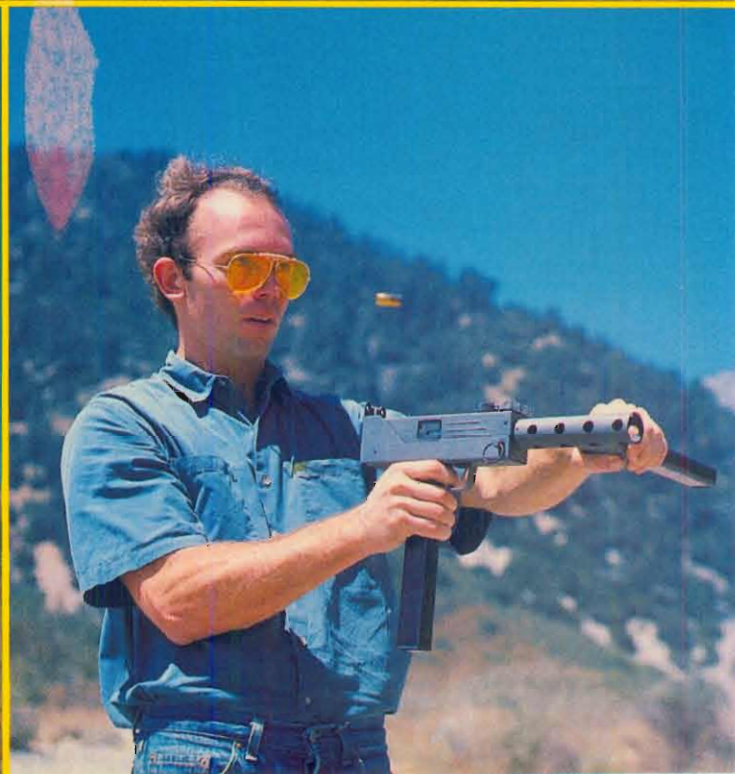
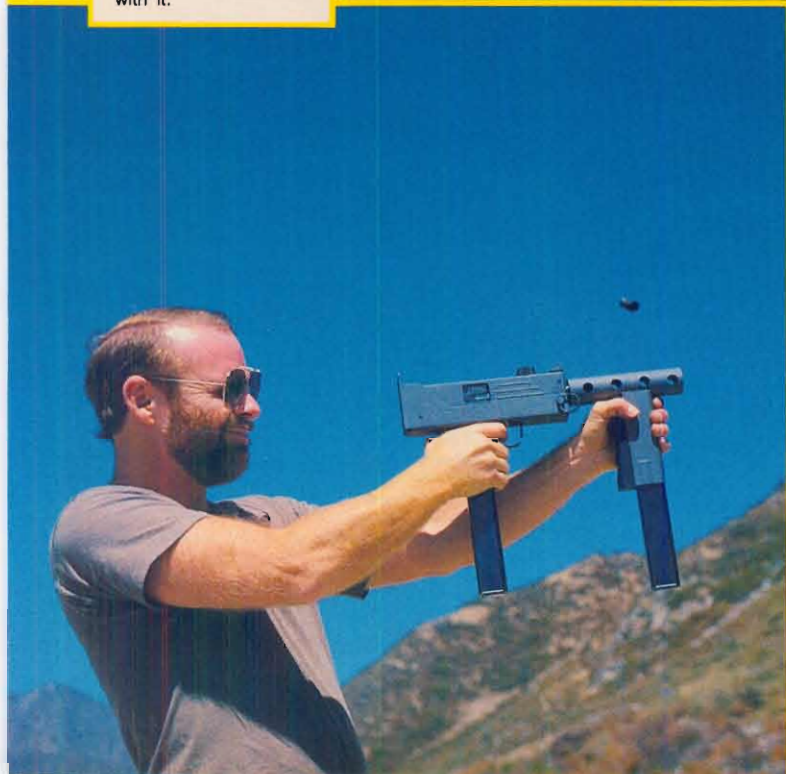
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The Partisan Avenger is fired with the barrel accessories available with it.

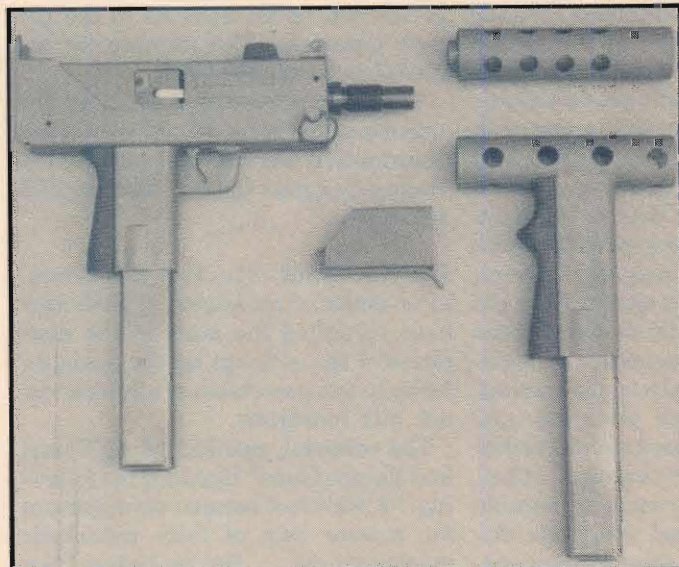


Patriot Distribution Company:

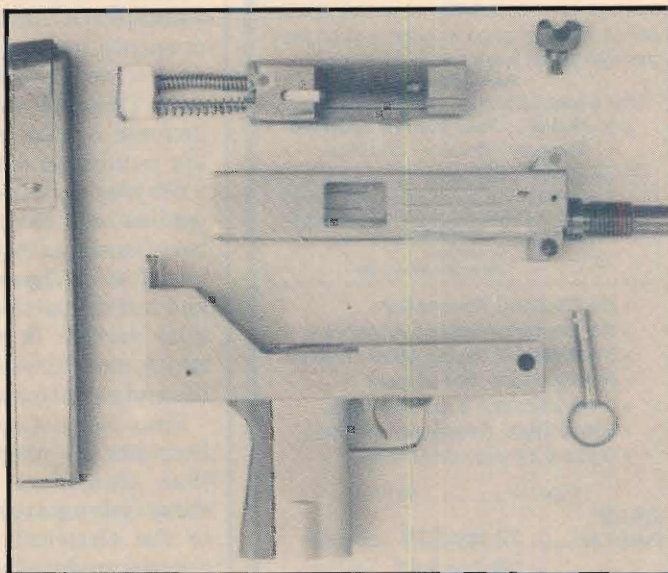
Partisan Avenger .45 ACP Assault Pistol

Resembling the popular MAC 10 submachine gun, the Avenger is a tough, well made semiautomatic weapon using 30-rd. M3 grease gun magazines. . .

By Jim Benson



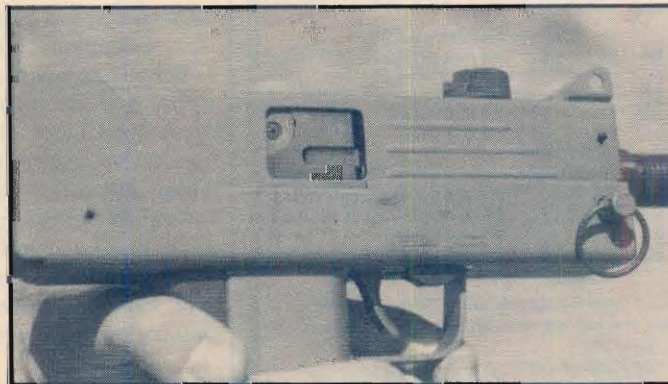
The Partisan Avenger with optional barrel accessories and magazine loader.



Field stripping is easy and begins by pulling the quick-release pin holding upper and lower receivers together. The pin is shown here at the lower right.



Safeties include Safe and Fire switch and a bolt face which allows a shooter to tell if a round is chambered, as shown here.



ALTHOUGH repeatedly banned by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) for being too much like a machine gun, the Partisan Avenger .45 ACP semiautomatic pistol is finally available for sale to the public.

Originally designed along the lines of the MAC 10 pistol, the Partisan Avenger operates on the same principle as the Uzi semiautomatic pistol

employing a wrap-around telescoping bolt. It fires from a closed bolt by means of a spring loaded striker.

An Avenger 9mm conversion unit is being developed as well as a bullpup carbine version.

The gun is designed to fire .45 ACP ball ammunition but Federal and PMC hollowpoint cartridges and Sampson +P jacketed semi-wadcutters also can be fired in the Avenger, according to

company literature.

The Avenger's barrel is removable and is threaded for use with an optional barrel shroud or a combination barrel shroud and pistol grip. The grip holds an extra 30-round magazine.

Standard U.S. M3 and M3A1 grease gun submachine gun magazines available on the surplus market are used in the Avenger.

The frame is solid steel with a par-

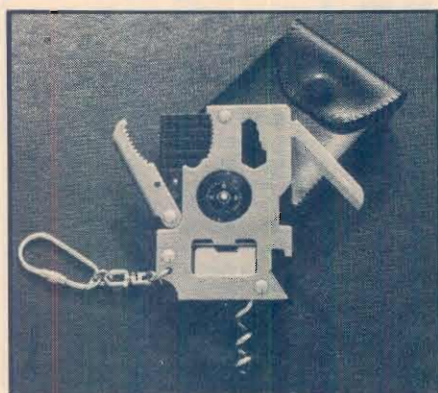
Continued on page 66

NEW PRODUCTS



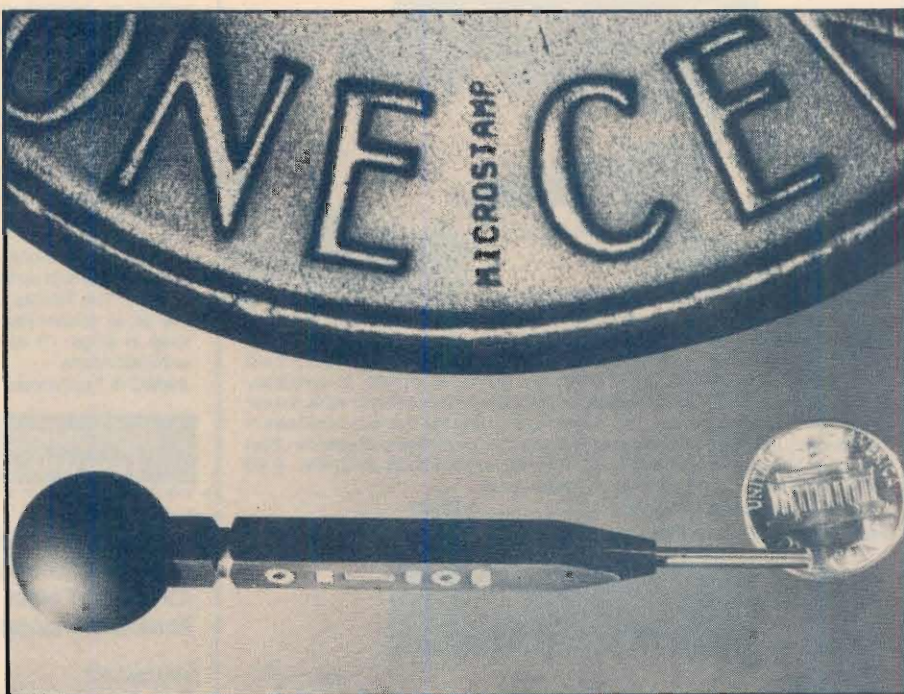
Calico M-900

American Industries introduces the Calico M-900 9mm carbine, shown here with 100-round magazine, scope mount, forward laser mount and compensator. The carbine features a quick position butt-stock, downward ejection, low profile, minimized recoil/climb and easily adjustable sights. Also available is the M-900 pistol. Both come standard with 50-round magazines. The carbine loaded with 100 rounds is lighter than an UZI or H&K with 25 rounds. Suggested retail for the carbine is \$458.33, and the pistol is \$441.58. A speed loader, brass catcher and other accessories are also available. Contact: American Industries, Dept. ASG, 405 East 19th Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305; (805) 323-1327.



Survival Tool

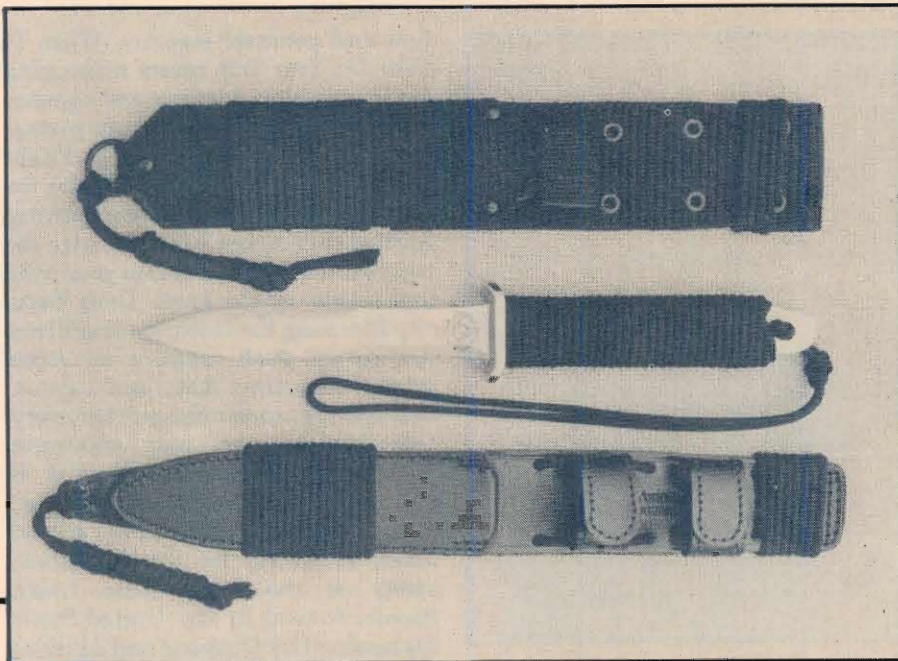
This is an all-in-one companion that has the essential liquid filled compass and a sharp knife. It also has a useful screwdriver, can-opener, bottle-cap twister, spare key holder, ruler, reflection mirror, corkscrew and spanner. The reverse side has a special water resistant plastic covered frame for the included inserts showing Morse code, ICAO alphabet, water requirements, signalling, emergency I.D., medical card and U.S. Air Force ground-air codes. These inserts slide behind the transparent window for easy access. The suggested price of \$15 includes a leather-like pouch for belt, hat-band, shoulder-strap, or shoelace. Contact: Galaxy Distribution Services, 420 Franklin Ave., Dept. ASG, El Segundo, CA 90245; (213) 322-5060.



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Trace Mark is a new micro-marking system for permanent identification of articles that may become lost or stolen. Micro-engraved in hard steel, the Trace Mark is a quality instrument used to mark most valuables — everything from jewelry and silver service to cameras, guns, stereos and VCR's. It can be applied in seconds to most metals, plastics or other smooth, firm

surfaces. Trace Mark imprints a name, number, or other identifying code by hand pressure and a roll-over motion leaving a mark only .010 inches high and is virtually invisible unless viewed under strong magnification. Priced at about \$65 for a custom-made engraver, contact: Microstamp Corp., Dept. ASG, 2770 E. Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91107; (818) 793-9489.

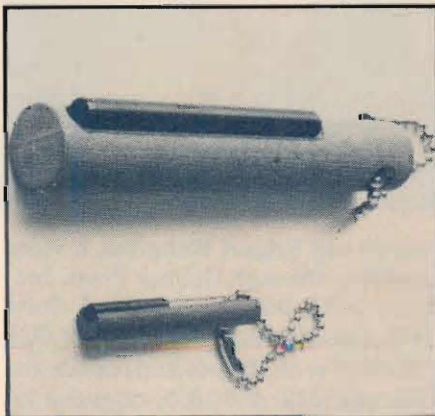


Ek SWAT Knife

The Ek Commando Knife Company, introduces the Ek SWAT knife. Created for law enforcement professionals, it now is available for the first time ever by direct purchase. The unique, black Ek para-grip handle guarantees a comfortable, non-slip grip and can quickly be unwrapped to provide 18 feet of 550-pound tensile strength MILSPEC parachute cord for emergency utility or lashing. The blade is made of high-carbon stainless steel hardened to Rockwell C57-59. Blade length is 6⁵/₈ inches with an overall length of 12¹/₂ inches. Retail price is \$79 per knife and is available with either single or double edge. A black nylon web sheath is \$14 or the deluxe black leather sheath is \$22.50. Write Ek Commando Knife Company, Dept. ASG, 601 North Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA 23220 or call (800) 468-5575.

Avenger Crossbow

The Avenger is a powerful crossbow made entirely of aluminum and features a bipod cocking stirrup as standard equipment. The 150-pound draw weight prod ensures super-fast performance and low vibration. The Avenger is available in several colors for \$175 and a folding stock model is also ready for sale. For ordering information contact: Saxon Arms Inc., Dept. ASG, 615 Jasmine Avenue N., Suite "J," Tarpon Springs, FL 34689; (813) 938-4882.

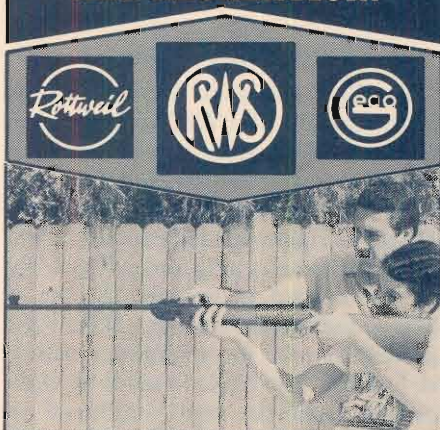


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the flint rod with your knife or a piece of steel so a spark hits the shavings. May be returned for refund within 30 days of purchase if you're not satisfied. Sure-Fire #1 is 4" x 3/4" and is \$9 ppd. Sure-Fire #2 is 3" x 1/8" and is \$7 ppd. Sure-Fire #3 is 1 1/2" x 1/4" and is \$5 ppd. Or order all three for \$20 ppd. by calling or writing to: Public Relations & Product Consultants, Dept. ASG, 7117 Third Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85251; (602) 994-5752. ●

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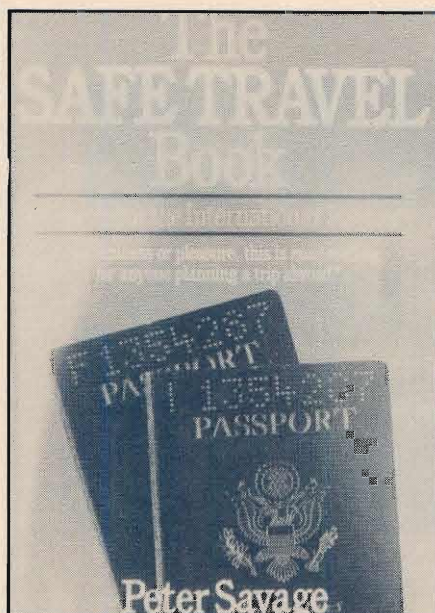
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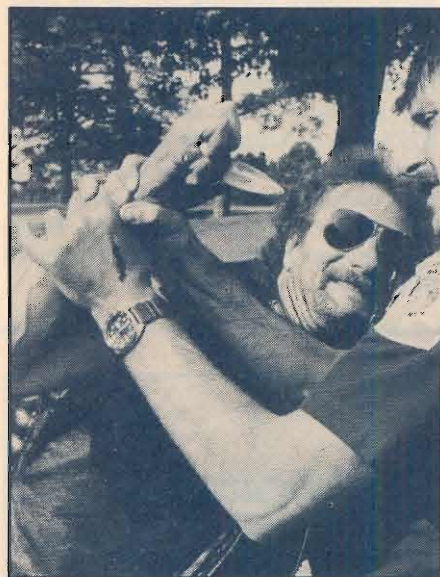
BOOKS/VIDEOS



The Safe Travel Book, A Guide For The International Traveler, by Peter Savage; Lexington Books, D. C. Heath and Company, Dept. ASG, 125 Spring St., Lexington, MA 02173; (800) 235-3565; 120 pages, paperback and hardcover; \$9.95 plus \$2 S&H for paperback, \$21.95 plus \$2 S&H for hardcover.

"... this travel safety guide is organized to anticipate a traveler's course from the time a trip is planned and a passport applied for to the point of return to the United States," says the author, director of an international trading firm and former U.S. Foreign Service officer. "The discussion of each element in this progression is designed to take the mystery out of unfamiliar tasks and to make practical safety precautions part of the planned routine. My thesis is that, rather than being intimidated by unknown hazards, you can enjoy your foreign tour or do your business abroad if you know the risks beforehand and establish a precautionary regimen." The book is divided into various sections dealing with different aspects of traveling abroad and tips for staying safe and comfortable. First there's Planning Your Trip, with information on documents needed, financial matters, immunizations, medicines and health precautions, reservations, travel informa-

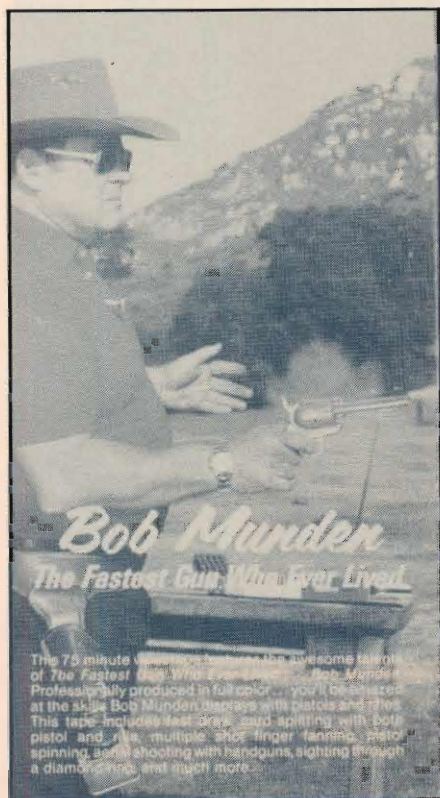
tion and personal security. What To Take On Your Trip covers a shopping list of essentials, luggage and apparel, what you should carry on your person. Safe Travel: Pre-Flight And In-Flight Tips covers how to be safe at the ticket counter, in flight, disembarking. Arrival On Foreign Soil deals with the risky period from customs to your hotel and arrival at the hotel. Daily Security Planning For Business And Pleasure covers such matters as street crime, thwarting theft and assault, anticipating random dangers and everyday problems you may encounter. Heading For Home: A Checklist To Ensure A Safe Trip discusses the final days of your trip, checking out of your hotel, preparing for the trip home, safety on the flight home. Lastly there's, Arrival In The United States discussing U.S. Customs and Arriving Home: A Final Checklist. This book is packed with all sorts of useful, valuable information for the international traveler. A must read for anyone concerned with their safety while traveling abroad.



Surviving Edged Weapons, a video available through Caliber Press, Inc., Dept. ASG, 666 Dundee Road, Suite 1607, Northbrook, IL 60062-2727; (800) 323-0037 or in Illinois and outside the U.S. call (312) 498-5680; intended for law enforcement only; 72 minutes;

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Bob Munden, The Fastest Gun Who Ever Lived, a Lenny Magill Production; 75 minutes, \$49.95 plus \$3 shipping; Mail Order Video, Dept. ASG, 7888 Ostrow Street #A, San Diego, CA 92111; (800) 942-TAPE; In CA (619) 569-4000.

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Poncho

*Survival cloak
of many uses...*

By Charles W. Sasser

AFTER I was inducted for basic military training, 25 years ago, the sergeants lined up all us "boots" to draw equipment.

One of the items issued was an OD-colored rectangle of heavy raincoat material measuring 5½ feet by 6½ feet. Snaps lined the edges, and there was a hole in the center with a hood and a drawstring.

Since I was as green as a willow sapling, I saw little use for the thing other than to add weight to a combat butt pack.

The supply sergeant withered me with a contemptuous stare.

"That *thing*," he grated out, "is a poncho. Other than your rifle, it is the most practical and useful piece of equipment Uncle Sam issued today."

He wasn't wrong.

The common poncho, government issue, which can be picked up relatively inexpensively at many Army surplus stores, or, in its civilian model, at outdoors supply houses, is a most indispensable companion for anyone who may find himself surviving in the Great Outdoors. No hunter, angler, trapper, backpacker, camper, or other active outdoors type should ever be without one. Not only is it a comfort item of unquestionable value, it may also literally mean the difference between life and death.

Over the years since boot camp I have discovered more than two dozen practical uses for this single piece of rubberized material. And I'm discovering more all the time.

The most obvious use for the poncho is as a rain garment — a *surpreme* outdoorsman's rain garment. It is large enough to completely cover a man wearing a full backpack. With the side snaps buttoned and the hood in place, a hunter or trapper can trudge through a downpour of rain and keep himself and all his gear dry.

It is just as effective in winter against sleet and snow. Ugly as it is, the pon-

cho is also the best personal protection against the howl of winter winds which can punch through most fabrics with icy fingers. Pulled over regular garments, it can ward off a gale and hold in body heat at the same time. Being inside a poncho on a cold day is a bit like being inside a heated tent; your own body acts as a stove. I have been forced to remove apparel in order to keep cool inside a poncho while my less fortunate companions were looking for something else to put on in order to keep warm.

An old bow hunter's trick of donning a poncho may work miracles for anyone forced to depend upon his hunting prowess in order to survive in the woods. Tricky winds can carry the human scent around the compass to alert every game animal in the vicinity.

Wearing a poncho contains much of the manscent inside it. It also distorts the shape of the human figure and helps prevent game spotting you on a stand. It works wonders on a still stand for squirrels. I once had a doe deer venture so near I reached out and goosed her with a stick.

Two ponchos snapped together make an excellent portable duck blind. Ducks apparently can't tell the difference between a quick poncho blind and ones erected with time and money. And the best thing about it is, after you've finished hunting for the day, you can tear it down and use it for any of its two dozen other purposes.

Long range combat patrols, Rangers, Green Berets, and other elite forces from countries around the world use the poncho for a variety of purposes.





The author wears his poncho.

When I was a medic with Special Forces (Green Berets), I parachuted into a number of cold, hot, rainy, or otherwise Godforsaken places where the poncho was literally my only home.

The poncho is lightweight and can be compacted to take up little room, an absolute necessity for people who must carry everything they need on their backs. The only thing required to convert it into a liveable shelter is several lengths of stout cord. We used parachute shroud line.

Eyelets around the poncho's borders permit it to be stretched into a tent-like shelter near the ground or, in combination with a hammock and mosquito net, as high above the snakes as you feel safe. The only real limitation is that it does not have sides. When a coatimundi in Centra America got into my "hootch" with me and snared itself in my mosquito netting, we almost beat each other to death before one of us managed to escape.

As A Tent — As a civilian backpack-

ing or hiking into out-of-the-way fishing places, I often still use a poncho for shelter instead of a heavier and more awkward tent. The style of shelter is limited only by your imagination. Four or five ponchos snapped together can make a castle.

Even when I have a tent, I take along a poncho for its many campsite utilities. It makes an excellent ground cloth for sleeping. Stretched over your tent, it makes a good storm fly, or, stretched separately, a sun screen. You can make a bag of it for storing food out of the reach of marauding animals. It can protect packs, camp stoves, or other equipment against the elements. It is a hammock, a chalk board, an improvised backpack, an ice chest, a trash receptacle. With proper framework it can even serve as a bathtub.

The edges of a poncho snap together to form a long cocoon. Fastened together around two or three woolen kets and a nylon poncho liner, which may also be purchased at Army surplus stores, the poncho becomes a snow-proof, water-proof sleeping bag of some comfort, I've remained reasonably dry sleeping in it during driving rainstorms, without any other shelter.

I once skied cross-country in Minnesota camping out with only a poncho sleeping bag. It snowed heavily one night and I could not find my partner the next morning. I tramped around in the deep snow shouting Norman's name.

A patch of snow stirred. A poncho sleeping bag resurrected out of the snow. In a moment Norman's head emerged sleepily from one end.

A few years ago my two older sons, a friend of theirs, and I constructed a raft of plyboard and styrofoam pontoons and set out to "Huck Finn" the Mississippi River to New Orleans, camping out on islands, swimming in the noon heat, and hooking catfish for dinner. The raft's "cabin" was a pon-

cho erected over a framework.

We unexpectedly discovered the "cabin" could just as easily serve as a makeshift sail. After some experimenting we mastered the science of sailing a raft on the broad sweep of the Mississippi, sometimes doubling the daily mileage we otherwise would have covered had we depended solely upon the current. By night and during the heat of the day the poncho was shelter; the rest of the time it was a sail.

The poncho will even float.

One afternoon on a long hike in the Ozarks, a friend and I came to a stream swollen from spring rains. Scouting upriver and down revealed no fording sites.

"We'll make poncho rafts and float across," I said.

My friend looked as though I had suggested we perform a miracle the equivalent of walking on water.

Without further explanation, I spread my poncho on the ground and placed my pack and all my clothing in the center of it. I lapped the sides over the bundle, then the ends, making a compact package which I trussed in strong cord. It weighed about 40 pounds.

Air trapped inside the bundle made it buoyant enough to float the pack and an adult in the manner of a boater's life jacket. We crossed the stream on our "rafts," keeping our equipment completely dry.

"Do you know any other little tricks with a poncho?" my once-skeptical friend inquired.

"More than two dozen of them," I replied.

Travois — The Olympic Peninsula in Washington with its rain forest is a rugged and inaccessible as any place in the world. Moss scummed on fallen logs, boulders, on the ground itself, often making wading a stream the best way to travel.

The only way to get game out is to



Two examples of poncho shelters.

Poncho



Here the poncho serves as both a "cabin" and a "sail" on this makeshift raft used for "Huck Finning" the Mississippi River.

carry it, no easy task with a 200-pound buck or a 400-pound black bear. Twenty years ago on the peninsula I learned to depend upon an Indian-style travois to pack game out of rough terrain. I still depend on it.

I construct the travois using a pon-

cho, two stout poles, and two spreaders.

After lashing the poles together in a modified X with two short legs and two long ones, I tie in the spreaders to maintain shape and then stretch the poncho between the long legs to form a platform on which to carry the

burden.

The rest is simple. Position yourself between the short legs of the X — and start pulling. I'm not promising it's easy, but try hoisting that bear on your shoulders and carrying it out.

As a one-time member of a mountain SAR (Search & Rescue) team, I have used such a travois to transport an injured person on at least one occasion. A litter, on the other hand, is far less traumatic to a patient and can be easily constructed using nothing more than a poncho and two long poles.

The poles may even be eliminated in a pinch. Soldier medics in Vietnam frequently rescued their wounded buddies by tossing them onto a poncho, grabbing the poncho corners, and taking off for safety. More than one GI owes his life to a poncho and a couple of loyal friends.

As a survival item, the poncho occupies such a high status in the military that the cadre of a U.S. Marine survival school I once attended sent its students into the wilderness armed with but three articles — a helmet, a

Continued on page 38

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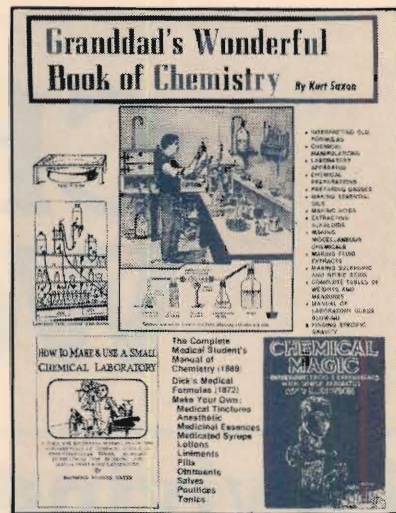
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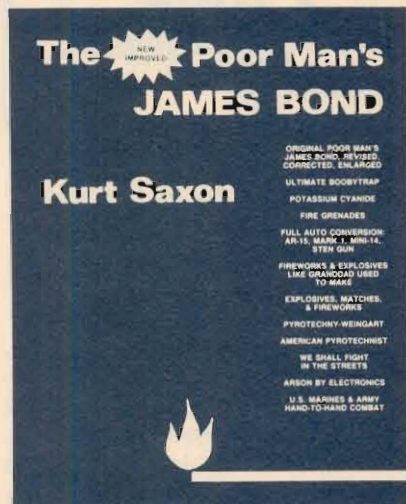


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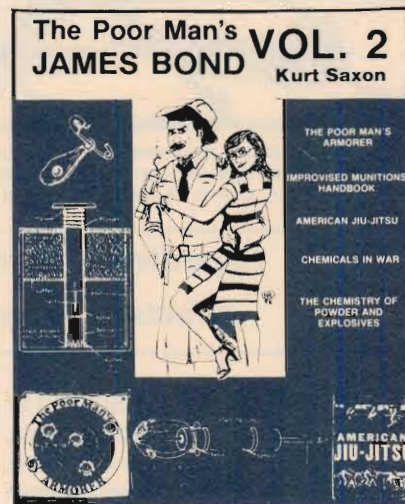
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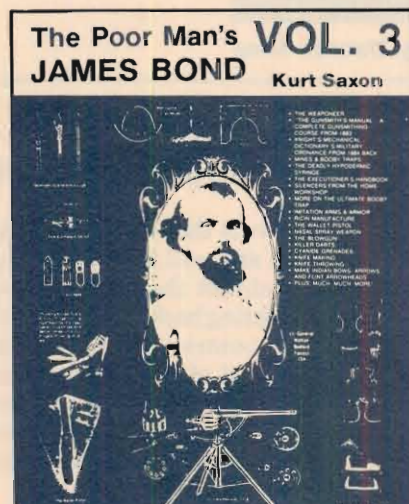
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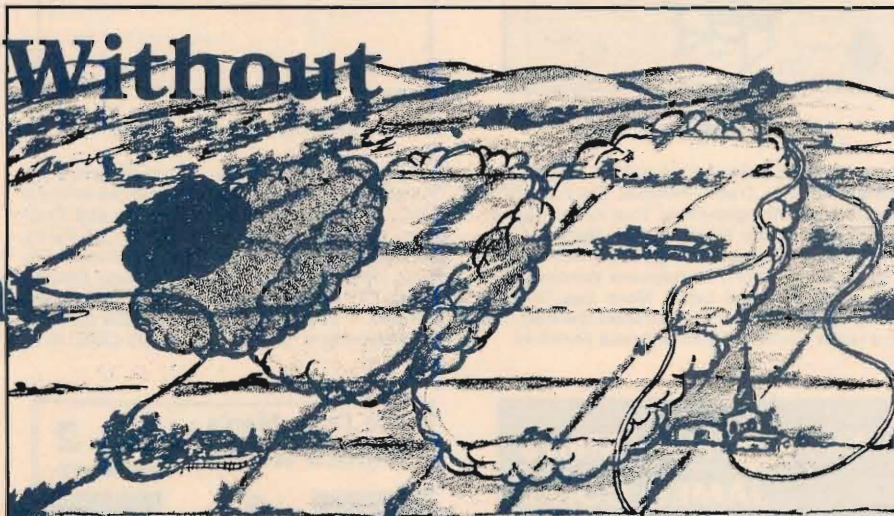
By Duncan Long

CHEMICAL warfare. There's some good news and bad news about it.

The bad news is that chemical weapons are alive and well today. They've been around almost the whole of the 20th century, dating back to WWI when a number of countries started using them; by the end of that first world war, as many as one third of the casualties had been caused — at least in part — through the use of chemical weapons.

Following WWI, efforts were made to outlaw chemical weapons; but the efforts failed. Japan made extensive use of chemical agents in its invasion of China, and Italy (despite treaties it had signed not to do so) used chemical weapons in the mid-1930s in its invasion of Abyssinia.

As WWII approached, European civilians were issued gas masks and received careful training in their use. (Britain, for example, issued over 30 million masks to its civilians and trained them how to use the devices.) Many feel that the only reason chemical agents weren't used in WWII was the careful training of both the public and troops in how to deal with chemical weapons and the huge stocks of the weapons which many of the larger



When weather conditions are normal and a wind is blowing (here from left to right), a chemical weapon will spread as shown here with the dark cloud representing the initial release which will be highly visible. As the cloud spreads (to the right), the gas dilutes and becomes less toxic and turns invisible.

Expedient means of avoiding the effects of chemical agents. . .

countries had should they have had to retaliate against a chemical attack. (This was fortunate since Germany held the secret to new, deadly nerve gases. There were not deployed only because German intelligence had mistakenly assumed that the Allies had similar weapons — even though the Allies didn't!)

Following WWII, both the West and East have developed the nerve gases pioneered by the Nazis as well as new deadly toxins to create even more dangerous chemical weapons. Unfortunately, unlike during WWII, these weapons have been used with great regularity by communist countries as well as countries supplied by Russia or China when battling enemies who don't have such weapons. Chemical weapons have been used in Yemen, Afghanistan, Laos, and Cambodia as well as in the Iraq-Iranian war and — apparently — Vietnamese-Chinese border skirmishes.

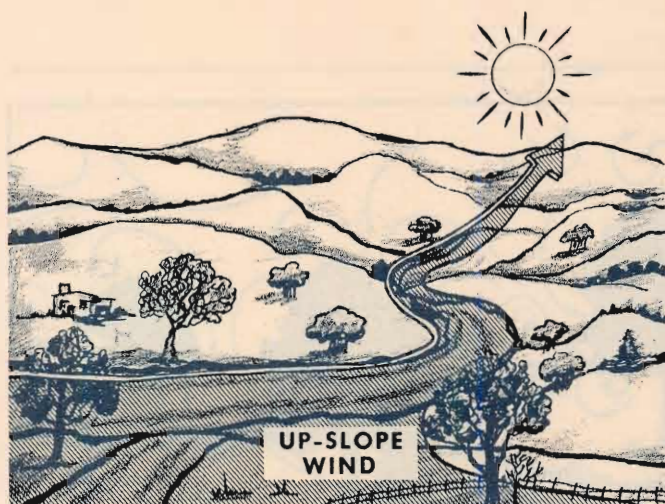
For those not having enough to worry about, Libya, Cuba, Syria, Egypt, India, Pakistan, as well as larger countries like France, Great Britain, USSR, the U.S. are believed to have chemical arsenals.

And then there are terrorists. . .

The bottom line to all this is YOU could be the target of a chemical attack — by way of terrorist action, a dirty little war, or perhaps even an all-out Armageddon — if past history is any indication.

Okay. That's the bad news.

The good news is that there are ways to greatly improve your chances of surviving a chemical weapons attack. In fact, chemical weapons, including toxins, though deadly are not as all-encompassing as many people believe. Yes, one large drop of nerve agent on your skin will make your insurance agent's life more complicated. But the catch is that it isn't all that easy to



Temperature inversion (LEFT) can carry toxic gases right up a slope, as shown here. As air cools at night (RIGHT), it tends to fall; this condition could make the hills shown here safe and the valley dangerous if a chemical attack had occurred.

get that drop onto your skin, especially if you know what you're doing.

Generally, chemical weapons are delivered in gas or liquid forms with dust (solid) deliveries rarely if ever used. The gas, liquid, or dust can be seen during delivery — and often for some time afterward. The chemical weapon will usually inflict its casualties quickly to keep up with the fast pace of modern warfare.

Avoiding Ill Effects — While a drop of nerve gas on the skin can be dangerous, for an enemy to get an area saturated enough to make sure that at least one drop gets there isn't all that easy to do over a very wide area of space.

For example, to attack a population in a square mile with nerve gas (which, drop for drop, is about as deadly as chemical weapons come), nearly a whole *ton* of the deadly material is needed. Less than that, and the area covered is much smaller or anyone in the square mile stands a good chance of being missed.

Because of this, areas which are dangerous during a chemical attack are relatively small and delivery takes place only for a short time before the supplies of the agent are depleted. So, if a little common sense is exercised and care is taken to avoid areas under actual attack by chemical weapons, a person could avoid any ill effects.

But even if an attack occurs quite close to you, or is even aimed at you, you still can survive even if you have **no protective gear at all!**

Here's why. When first delivered, chemical agents can be easily seen as a vapor or cloud. Consequently, those who remain alert and take note of de-

livery of such a weapon can improve their survival chances by avoiding it. After delivery, many chemical agents evaporate into invisible gases which are still dangerous to some extent even though invisible, however, they are still heavier than air. That being the case, avoiding low-lying areas also allows you to avoid the danger. You stand a good chance of suffering no ill effects from a chemical attack if you avoid the initial barrage of liquids and then stay out of city streets, valleys, basements, and other low-lying areas.

Currently, chemical agents are delivered in either persistent or nonpersistent forms. The differentiation between the two groups has to do with how long they will contaminate an area. Nonpersistent agents are fast-acting and thin so that they quickly disperse to the point that an area is safe to be in within a day or perhaps even a few hours after an agent is released in it. Nonpersistent chemical weapons are most likely to be deployed ahead of rapidly-moving enemy assault troops since such chemicals create casualties and force the defending troops to mask and suit up while the attacking troops can move in unencumbered by masks or heavy protective suits.

And this is why troops use protective gear like masks and suits. They do so because they may be forced to "hold ground" during a chemical attack. Furthermore, they will make their presence known by fighting an aggressor so that a "second dose" of chemicals may be sent to them during a battle. But if you avoid getting into a situation where you're having to hold ground (or are close to troops doing so), you could

avoid needing such protective gear.

Persistent agents are designed to remain dangerous for long periods of time. This is generally achieved by thickening them into an oily goop that doesn't evaporate quickly. For those without protective and decontamination equipment, an area contaminated with a persistent chemical weapon is best treated as a no-man's land.

If you should find yourself in a shooting war, it is good to keep in mind the fact that chemical agents can be delivered to an area via artillery shells, bombs, or rockets. They can also be disseminated on a smaller scale with grenades, land mines, or aerosol sprays from aircraft or vehicles.

Whatever the delivery method, it will be noticeably different from similar standard weapons. A munitions burst will appear and sound much different and its explosive effect will be smaller. Once exploded, a chemical weapon will often produce more smoke or "fog" than occurs with standard weapons.

When a nonpersistent agent is released from a shell or other explosive device, it will form a small cloud that expands; as it grows cooler, it will tend to retain its shape for 30 seconds. After that, it may become invisible and will start moving with the speed and direction of any breeze or wind in the area.

Persistent agents (like VX nerve gas or distilled mustard) will be liquid droplets when delivered and will quickly settle onto the surface of the area below which they are released. These oily agents also float on the surface of water and cling to brush giving off dangerous fumes. Those moving through water or vegetation contaminated by

Chemical Weapons

persistent chemicals will find that the material will stick on them, greatly increasing the likelihood of doing harm. Important strategies when dealing with persistent agents are staying out of the area they're in or staying out from under them while they're being delivered.

Nonpersistent agents will usually be watery and be easily blown about by the wind; persistent agents will look like molasses, oil, or grease depending on the temperature and the degree to which they have been thickened and will fall to the earth more quickly. Toxins, which can be highly persistent, may be in a liquid or powder form.

Many agents affect animals (including birds and some types of insects) as well as human beings; consequently, another good survival strategy is watching the animals in an area. This can enable the observer to detect danger. Likewise, a survivor will be wary of smoke from unusual sources, unexplained liquids, powder, or mists. All can spell danger.

Your nose is also capable of giving you some warning that chemical weapons may be in an area. Smells like new mown grass, flowers, etc., where such smells don't belong is a warning signal. Although chemical agent "designers" strive for undetectable weapons, many do have definite odors which might warn those who are alert to such occurrences.

Mild exposures to many chemical agents — while not ideal from a long term health standpoint — aren't necessarily deadly, either. Therefore, if you note early symptoms of chemical poisoning such as a running nose, eye tearing or irritation, tightness in the chest, breathing problems, or nausea, you can take steps to get away from a contaminated area and stand a good chance of surviving your exposure.

If you are trapped in a building and forced to stay there, you can still survive. Remembering that chemical weapons are heavier than air, you can minimize contamination by retreating to a high room and making it as air tight as possible by closing windows and sealing or taping all cracks in doors and windows if possible. Once the attack has passed, you can either evacuate to a safer area or — if a nonpersistent agent has been used — air out the rooms you're in. In fact, it would be possible to remain relatively



Rough terrain cuts down on the speed of the wind by breaking it into eddies as shown here. This causes many urban areas as well as wooded areas to take longer to become naturally decontaminated.

safe in a building during an all-out attack aimed at those on the street even if you didn't have a gas mask in such a situation.

If you're outside during an attack (or evacuating out of a contaminated area), it's important to avoid letting any large droplets of chemical agent drop onto you when it is first delivered. If some does get on your clothing, it should immediately be cut off or the clothing discarded before it can soak into your skin or cause you to breathe fumes from it.

Move To High Ground — That done, you should remember that the fumes from the chemical agent are dangerous as well. These fumes are heavier than air; moving to higher ground will improve your survival chances since it helps you avoid the gas on the ground or at least minimize the amount of concentration of the agent to which you're exposed. By the same token, it's important to avoid low-lying areas like river beds, valleys, basements, or city streets having tall buildings on either side of them.

There is one exception when higher ground can be dangerous. This occurs during a period of temperature inversion. A temperature inversion takes place when warm air is cooled by the ground while the air above it stays warm. In such a situation, a chemical agent's fumes hug the ground with the cooler air holding their vapor close to the earth. In such a condition, even nonpersistent agents remain dangerous longer. Higher ground becomes dangerous when a draft is added to the temperature inversion. This draft can

be created as the cool air warms up so that it will actually move uphill carrying chemical vapors with it.

Temperature inversions occur when the weather suddenly warms up after a cool period (say, in the summer at the end of a cool night as the sun warms up the air). Such weather conditions are ideal for the delivery of chemical agents and a time when you must be especially wary of a chemical attack.

The worst time (from a military standpoint) for delivery of a chemical attack is on a bright, sunny day when the ground is heated so that the air next to it is warm and rising. This upward air movement carries chemical fumes away from the ground so that they are quickly dispersed and diluted to harmless levels.

Now let's suppose you're out in an open field and an enemy plane drops out of the sky to "dust" (with chemical weapons) a group of soldiers near you. How far away do you need to get from the battle to be safe?

If you're upwind from the release, or if there's little breeze, you can be quite close and remain safe (provided you're not attacked as well — care should be taken not to do anything which may cause an attack to be aimed at you).

If you're downwind from the attack, you're in a more dangerous position. A lot of variables coming into play, the amount of agent released, wind speed, and type of agent, can all create big differences. But one thing's for sure, once an agent has been released it follows the wind. So it's wise to move quickly away from the release site and

Continued on page 68



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By Bill March

THE layer of air surrounding the earth has weight and presses down upon the surface as a force which is called air pressure. This phenomenon was first measured in 1643 by the Italian scientist, Torricelli, who found that the weight of the atmosphere could be balanced by a weight of mercury enclosed in a long glass tube.

The pressure of the air at sea level was equal to 760mm or 29.92 inches of mercury in the tube. This discovery led to the development of the mercury barometer, a glass tube with a calibrated scale which accurately determined the weight of air above it.

This weight of air varies for two reasons: (1) the passage of weather systems with high and low pressure will give rise to changes in air pressure; (2) as you climb up from sea level there is less and less air above you until at 18,000 feet the air pressure is half the sea level value, (see Figure I).

The barometer can thus perform two functions: it may be used to measure air pressure fluctuations and assist in predicting the passage of weather systems and it can be used to measure altitude above sea level as an altimeter. The scientific unit now used by weather services is the millibar or the international unit called a kilopascal: 760mm mercury = 1,013 millibars = 101.3 kilopascals.

The mercury barometer is not suitable for use by outdoorsmen because it is cumbersome and fragile, however, the development of the aneroid (meaning without liquid) barometer provides a practical tool for measuring air pressure. The aneroid barometer was a dial graduated in centimeter/inches of mercury or millibars or when used as an altimeter graduated in feet or meters. Inside is a thin metal cylinder partially evacuated of air. This cylinder responds to changes in air pressure by expanding or contracting like an accordion. The slight movements of the surface of the cylinder are mechanically amplified by a system of levers which are connected to the needle giving a pressure or height readout on the dial.



There are different models of altimeters/barometers available and as with most scientific equipment you get what you pay for. When selecting an altimeter the most important consideration is the field accuracy of the instrument. The Swiss Thommen 1000 altimeter is calibrated to read in 50 foot or 20 meter intervals from sea level to 15,000 feet with an accuracy of 30 feet. The more expensive 2000 model is calibrated to read 20 foot or 10 meter intervals up to 27,000 feet with a similar level or accuracy.

DECREASE IN PRESSURE WITH INCREASE IN ALTITUDE
TABLE - FIGURE I

Height	Pressure In Millibars	Percentage of Sea Level Pressure	Comments
Sea Level	1,013 MB	—	
3,000'	900	90%	
6,400'	800	80%	
9,800'	700	70%	Mountain Sickness
13,800'	600	60%	Limit of Permanent Habitation
18,000'	500	50%	Deterioration Over Long Term
23,500'	400	40%	
30,000'	300	30%	Oxygen necessary even with acclimatization



Contouring a hillside maintaining a constant altitude by using an altimeter.

Both altimeters are temperature compensated which means the expansion and contraction of the metal working parts are reduced by incorporating a bimetal which counteracts their distortions due to temperature. This temperature compensation does not take into account variations in air pressure due to temperature since these altimeters are calibrated to read the pressure at a standard temperature. At sea level this is 59 degrees F. (15 degrees C.). It is possible to correct the altimeter reading to temperature, however, this requires a thermometer and a series of calculations.

In practice it is simpler to calibrate the altimeter at a known altitude by rotating the setting ring until the correct altitude is indicated by the pointer. This now gives the correct reading for the current temperature. This calibration also corrects for any variation in pressure due to the local weather system prevailing at the time. Because both of these can change and affect the accuracy of the instrument it is important to reset the altimeter at points of known altitude at frequent (hourly) intervals whenever possible.

Elevation data to reset your altimeter is available from three sources:

(Continued on page 60)



Travel in whiteout conditions, Hinku Nimal, Nepal. An altimeter is a great help in such conditions.

Personal Camouflage:

Principles of

1. In snow country, weapon camouflage can easily be accomplished by use of strips of white cloth, as on this Ruger 1-B single shot rifle.

2. Apollo rubber coated miniature binoculars are quiet when inadvertently bumped against other gear and matte finished to prevent glare. Bushnell 10x50 binoculars at left have been painted a two-tone pattern with Bow-Dull, a specially formulated paint developed for archery equipment.

3. Flat black spray paint was applied to this homemade load bearing gear for the author's M1 Garand.

4. The fore end of this M1 Garand has been loosely wrapped with burlap strips to break up its outline and reduce glare from the barrel. The strips stop short of the operating rod and do not interfere with the weapon's functioning.



Concealment II:

Camouflaging field equipment . . .

By David James Marshall

This is the second of two articles on camouflage. In the first article, in the October issue, the author discussed clothing and how to conceal head and other exposed areas. This article deals with field gear — The editors.

PROPER personal camouflage can be completely negated if attention to detail doesn't extend to field and web gear as well. Even gear that is brand new isn't ready as it comes from the package.

Ever notice how older web gear isn't stiff and shiny with the sizing used to manufacture it? Simply washing it with the laundry removes the "new" patina, softens the outer material and reduces shine. A well worn LC-1 harness is likely to be somewhat faded, scuffed in spots, and probably dirty as well. Lay it down in a weed patch and it becomes rather difficult to find again. It's still serviceable, and has acquired it's own camouflage with age. The same holds true with most web gear, load bearing harnesses like the LC-1 civilian web type belts and popular nylon holsters and clip pouches.

The techniques for muting both the color and noise of most web gear and harnesses are very simple once trouble spots are recognized. Brass hardware wears shiny with time and use, as do eyelets and suspender snaps. If not worn shiny, these fittings corrode and may rasp and squeak loudly when body motion causes the harness and load to shift.

Flat black or brown spray paint can be applied to metal fittings of any type of web gear. It serves a two-fold purpose by both covering the fittings and mottling its appearance. More than one color can be used if desired.

The harness snaps on military web gear are a sore point, (no pun intended), with anyone who has ever had to wear it. The LC-1 harness, worn under the ALICE pack, gouges both kidneys and ribs. One way to avoid this is to wrap the offending snaps with dark colored duct tape. Another quiet, and more permanent, solution is to replace the snaps with a short length of black or OD green parachute cord. Not only will you eliminate a source of pain, glare and revealing noise, but you will reduce the overall weight of the basic combat harness as well. This same technique can also be

used to attach any other gear to the harness such as clip pouches, canteens, military style pistol holsters, and first aid dressing pouches to name just a few.

Most civilian web gear, nylon holsters, and load bearing harnesses incorporate structural nylon Fastex buckles. Easy to attach, quiet, and lightweight, these buckles come ready made with a dull matte finish. They are ideal as replacement parts to gear already equipped with noisy or shiny metal buckles. Most sizes can be purchased inexpensively at local camping or mountain equipment stores.

Optics — One way to gain an edge in a man vs. man, or man vs. animal situation, is to be able to observe without being seen yourself. Usually, the edge goes to whoever spots his adversary first. The best way to accomplish this is to utilize the high quality optics available on the commercial market. These optics range from compact monoculars, spotting scopes, and telephoto lenses, to range compensating rifle scopes. One problem they all have in common is glare. Sunlight, bouncing off lenses from low morning or afternoon sun, is highly visible. Nothing in nature produces anything similar. Ask any rescue pilot how far sunlight bouncing off a signal mirror can be seen. The answer is miles. Considerable glare also reflects from the polished surfaces of blued rifle barrels, camera lens bodies, and spotting scope housings.

Camera and lens bodies as well as rifle scopes can either be painted a dull color or wrapped in a non-reflective material. Care must be taken not to restrict movement of critical parts such as ranging or trajectory adjustment knobs, camera lens aperture rings, or image focusing barrels. These parts can be masked with tape prior to painting.

Cloth electrician's tape, not the shiny plastic variety, is still available in hardware stores and can be applied to non-moving optical parts. It does leave a sticky residue when removed, but this

comes off easily with a paper towel or Q-Tip and household rubbing alcohol. Commercial "camouflage" patterned tape is popular, and leaves no residue when removed. I find it rather shiny when placed in strong sunlight. But I'm obviously a minority, sporting goods stores sell quite a lot of it.

Some manufactures, aware of their customers needs, have developed rubber coatings for some models of optical equipment. Originally designed to protect against hard knocks, and succeeding at that nicely, these coatings also reduce most of the visible glare from an optical housing. Depending on the manufacturer, colors available range from black, to OD green, to camouflage patterns like those found on military fatigues.

Most brand name optical companies now field at least one armored version of either rifle scopes, binoculars, or spotting scopes. Those of us who pursue big game and shoot them with Kodak film are still waiting for our armor coated 600mm telephoto lenses!

One other advantage I found when using the rubber coated optics. When my binoculars fall out of my jacket, swing on the neck strap and bang into the stock of my hunting rifle, the range at which deer are spooked is somewhat extended.

As no product yet exists to eliminate sun glare off optical lens surfaces without severely impairing optical clarity, another technique must be employed. When in strong sunlight, use optics from a shaded area.

Taught by the military to snipers and forward observers, this eliminates the sun glare so readily seen by hostile personnel or a photographer's quarry. As an added benefit, it is also much easier to see into another shaded area from a shaded area. Much more so than from a patch of strong sunlight. Game animals know this instinctively and usually bed down in the shade of rocks or heavy timber. The mottled appearance of light and shadow on an animal's body or concealed observer is one of the best natural camouflage pat-

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Principles of Concealment II



LC-1 metal pistol belt clips have been replaced with parachute cord. The result is lighter overall weight, a much quieter load bearing harness and improved wearer comfort.

terms there is.

Weapons — The last problem area of field gear is weapons. Assault rifles, battle rifles, hunting or sniping rifles, and hunting bows can all benefit from properly applied camouflage. Most hunting rifles, as well as some assault rifles — for whatever reason — have scopes mounted on them. Optics have been discussed already, but some of the methods used can be applied to the weapons themselves. Cloth electrician's tape can be applied to rifle barrels to cut glare from highly polished blued steel. On rifles, strips of burlap can be loosely wound or tied to any area of the weapon as long as they don't interfere with moving parts. The most critical areas being bolts, the operating rods of some semiautomatic rifles, trigger housings, safeties, or magazine wells. Strips of white cloth or tape can be used in lieu of burlap in snow country. This method is also taught by the military.

Flat brown, light or dark green, grey or white spray paint can be applied directly to rifles or hunting bows. Color naturally depends on background foliage in the area it will be used in. The same caution applies to paint as it does to burlap strips. Beware of moving parts.

Fiberglass and Kevlar stocks are available as standard equipment from some manufacturers or as after-market accessories for many modern rifles. Not only are these stocks lighter, stronger, and weather resistant than their wood counterparts, they are easier to paint and thus camouflage. Either flat colored paints or the specially designed

"wrinkle" paints now on the market can be used. One source of wrinkle paint is Brown Precision, P.O. Box 270W, 7786 Molinas Ave., Los Molinos, CA 96055. Colors available are black, brown, green and grey. In addition to reducing glare this finish provides a secure grip in wet or cold climate.

One last tip on rifles, gained as experience in war time as well as on the hunting grounds. Rifle sling swivels should be kept tightened and well oiled to avoid loud, game spooking squeaks and rattles, or removed all together. Removal is also recommended for the stacking swivels found on military rifles such as the M1 Garand, 1903/06 Springfield and certain foreign service rifles now being imported in quantity into this country.

Hunting bows can be subdued with either flat paints or soft cotton camo patterned sleeves fitted over the limbs. Attention should also be paid to bow mounted accessories like arrow rests, sight pins and brackets, quivers, and stabilizers. I think more has been written on camouflage for bowhunters and their equipment than any other group outside the military.

Two excellent books which have large sections on personal and equipment camouflage are the *Bowhunters Digest* by Chuck Adams, and the *Archers Bible* by Fred Bear.

Army field manuals are another source of information on personal and equipment camouflage. Paladin Press and similar companies advertise in this magazine almost every month. They offer a wide selection of topics and field manuals from which to choose and are an excellent place to start. ●

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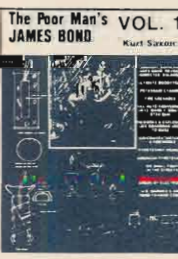
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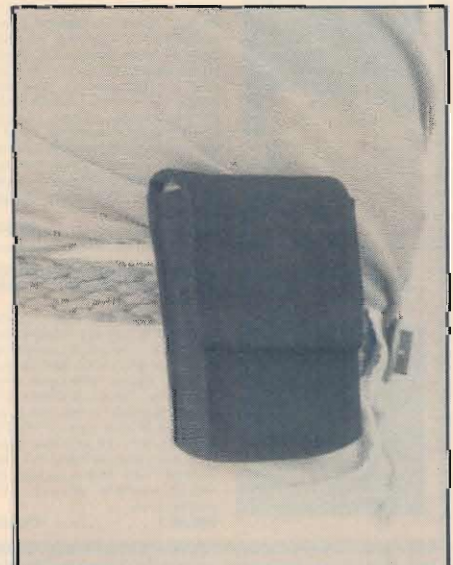
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Field stripped to its basic components, the Omega 10mm pistol is based on the 1911-A1 design. Quick change of the barrel and recoil spring mechanism make it a .45 ACP or .38 Super caliber pistol as well.

— By Jim Benson —

TEN millimeter. Perhaps the most exciting development in handguns since introduction of the .357 and .44 Magnum calibers.

The 10mm cartridge is called middle magnum. Its caliber (.40 caliber) is about half way between the .357 and .44 calibers and its bullet can travel at magnum velocities (roughly 1,100 to 1,350 fps).

Although the 10mm cartridge and guns were around at the turn of the

century and similar size calibers (.38, .41) have been around for many years, the current 10mm was developed in the 1970s. In 1984 the ill-fated Bren Ten semiautomatic pistol was introduced by Dornaus and Dixon but the firm went bankrupt. Several American firms are producing 10mm pistols today, all based on the venerable Colt 1911-A1 Government Model design, including Colt's new Delta Elite 10mm handgun. Now Springfield Armory of

Geneseo, Illinois, is marketing its own 10mm pistol based on the 1911-A1 design called the Omega. The Omega is actually a multi-caliber pistol since quickly replacing the barrel and recoil spring will instantly convert it to .45 ACP or .38 Super calibers.

Springfield offers this unique handgun, made with all the quality materials and processes that have made Springfield an industry standard, in 6-inch and 5-inch barrel models with

Omega 10mm Pistol

or without barrel porting. You can buy an Omega in any of the three calibers, or one complete three-caliber Omega system.

Springfield has provided *American Survival Guide* with a 5-inch ported 10mm Omega pistol as the top prize in our 1988 Giveaway No. 3 contest. This is the gun pictured on the cover

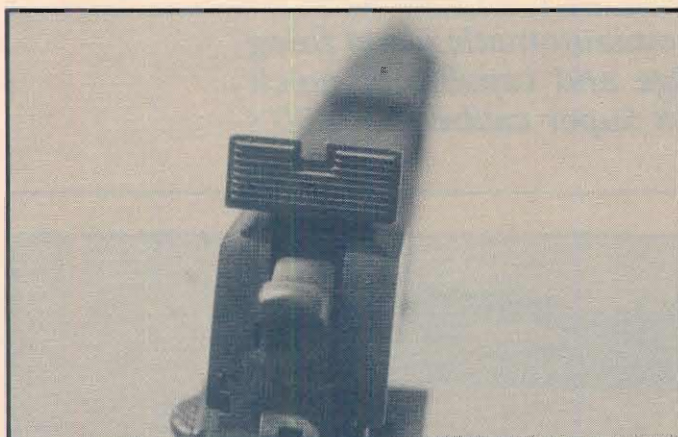
of this issue and in this article. Details on pages 72-73.

The Omega has a hammer forged and polygon rifled barrel for maximum quality, accuracy and long life with stabilizing porting which acts as a built-in compensator reducing muzzle rise and recoil.

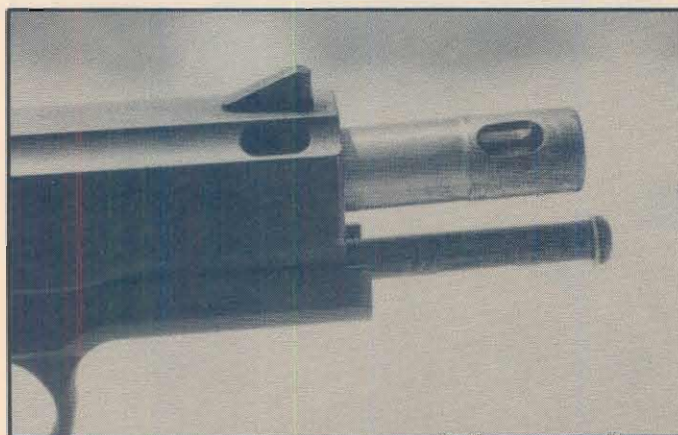
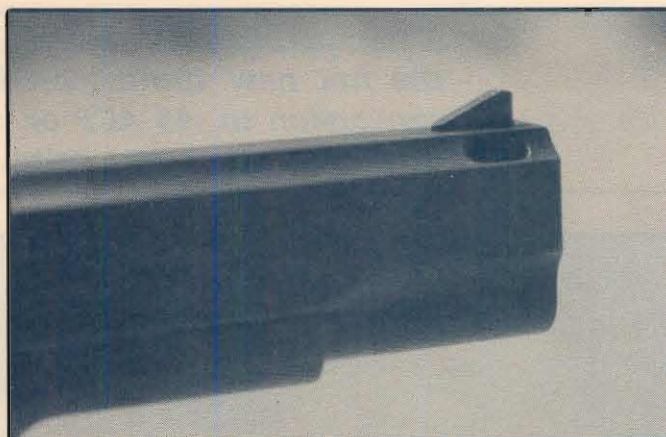
Other unique Omega features in-

clude: a special lock-up system that eliminates the normal barrel link and bushing found in most 1911 pistols. That means greater safety and accuracy in high velocity loads like the 10mm and .38 Super; a patented dual extractor system allowing changing of calibers without changing extractors;

Continued on page 47



The rear sight is a square notch adjustable for windage and elevation. Front sight is a ramped blade.



The barrel is ported for better control during firing. Porting helps reduce recoil and muzzle climb.



The gun has Pachmayr-type wraparound grips.

Springfield Armory Omega Pistol: Tech Specs

Caliber	10mm (optional .38 Super, .45 ACP)
Action, operation	semiautomatic, recoil
Lengths:	
Barrel	5 inches (6 inches also)
Overall	8½ inches (5-inch barrel); 9½ inches (6-inch barrel)
Weight unloaded	42.88 ozs. (5-inch); 45.36 (6-inch)
Height overall	5½ inches
Sights	rear square notch adjustable for windage, elevation, front ramp
Sight radius	6.91 inches (5-inch), 7.91 inches (6-inch)
Rifling (10mm)	RH, 6 groove, 1 turn in 16 inches
Price, suggested	\$850
Manufacturer	Springfield Armory, Dept. ASG, 420 W. Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254; (309) 944-5631

Professional Locksmithing Tools

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PIX MODEL 13

This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5 piece set of **warded picks is included**. A 16 piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a Low price of:

Pix 13 \$39.95



PIX-QUICK MODEL A

These high quality picks feature new lighter non-breakable plastic color coded handles. Picks are of .022 blue spring steel... hardened to perfection. Eight piece set comes with handy see-through case with two extra pockets and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified."

Model A \$19.95



PIX-QUICK MODEL B

Same color coded set as Model A. Only with deluxe 13 pieces. Price includes tension wrench and book.

Model B \$27.95

PIX-EZ All-In-One Pick-Set

100% American Made! As convenient to carry and use as a pocket knife! Only 4 inches long, half inch square, weighs under five ounces, works fast and opens pin and water tumbler locks quickly, with very little effort. Six tempered spring steel picks, tension wrench.

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ESP-13

This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a 5 piece **warded key set** and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17 piece set total.

ESP-13 \$42.95



KEY RING PICK SET



This unique design is ideal when low profile is required or to keep on your keyring for emergencies. Contains a tension wrench, three picks and the "Key Pick."

Key Ring Pick Set \$24.95

DOUBLE SIDED DISK TUMBLER PICKS

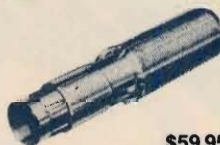
Set of 4 picks designed to be used on the most popular double-sided disc tumbler, showcase, cam and padlocks.

\$24.95



MINI PICK TUBULAR

The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute. A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.



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This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesame padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.



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SCHLAGE WAFER

The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.

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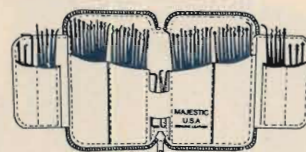
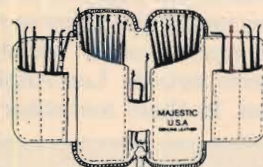
Extractor.

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Cold Steel, Gerber, Etc.:

The Knives Of Francesco Quinn

The actor has a sizeable survival knife collection, all of which he uses. . .

Staff Report

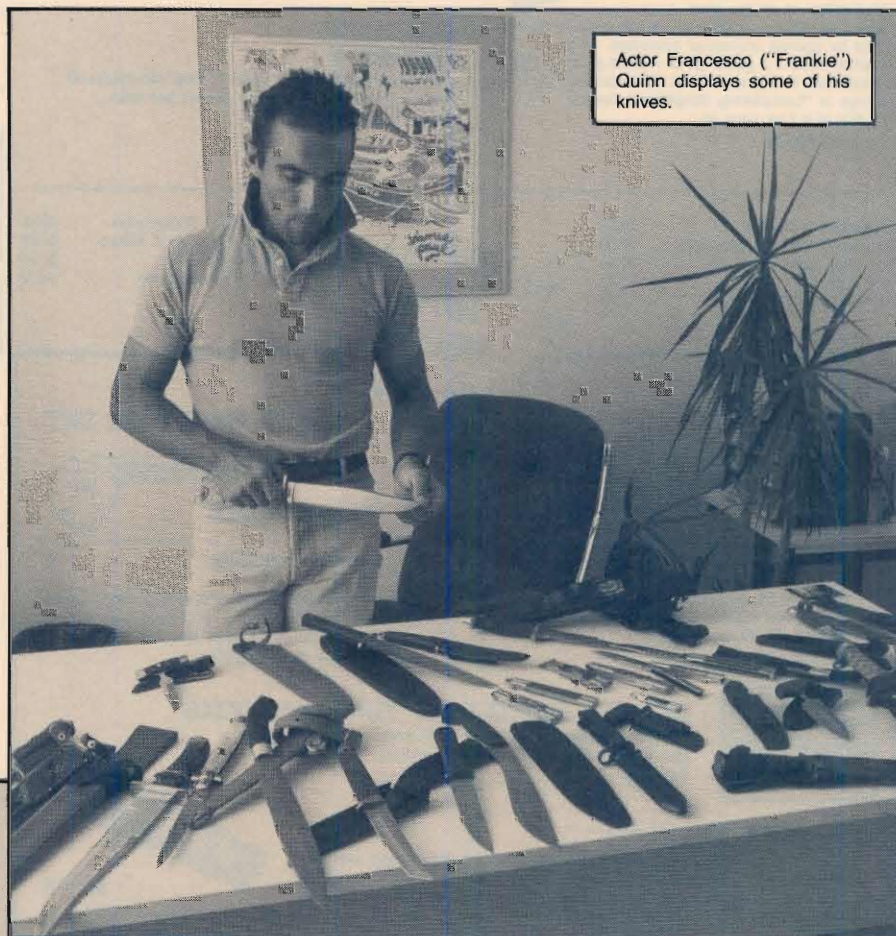
I HAVE never, ever since I was 7 years old, gone anywhere without a pocket knife," says actor Francesco Quinn. "Because knives have saved my life, and they've saved my dad's life. . . Knives are useful."

For instance, he says, he once used one of his knives to cut himself free from a fishing net he got tangled up in while skin diving.

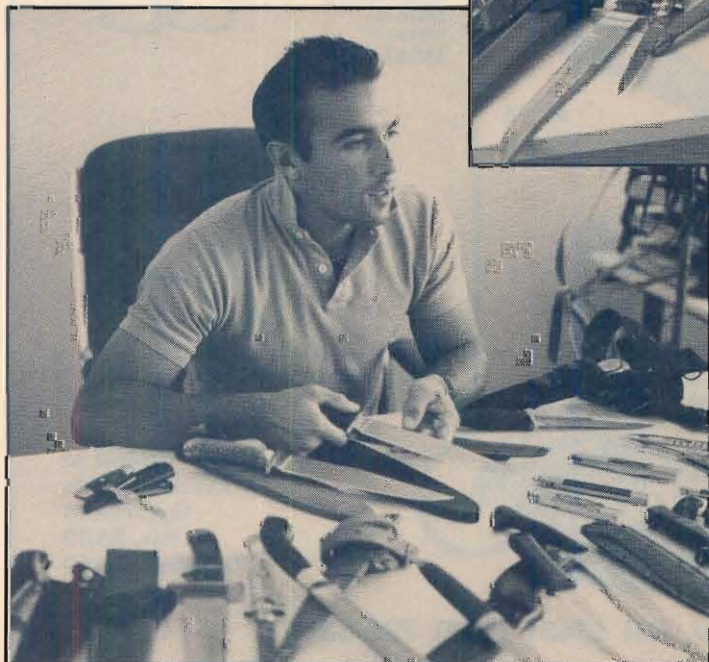
The eldest son of actor Anthony Quinn, Francesco, 25, known to his friends as "Frankie," is interested in survival know-how, reads *ASG* and has a large collection of survival knives.

He doesn't know how many knives he owns, he relates, but he does not collect them just for the sake of having them. "I have a knife collection only because they are useful. All the knives I have I use."

One of his passions in life is motocross racing and he owns a number of motorcycles, often traveling to the deserts outside Los Angeles to ride them. In these and other wilderness



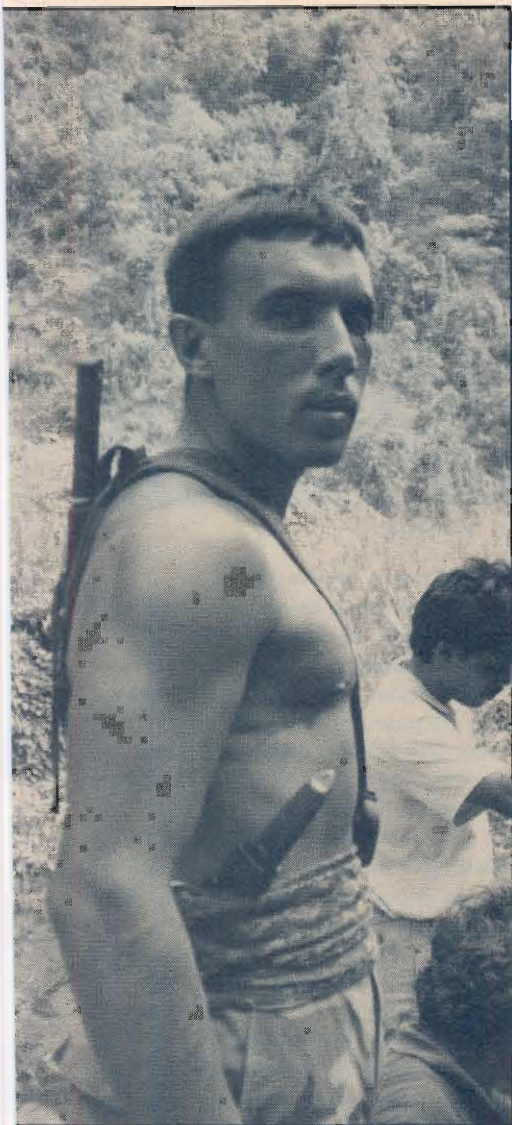
Actor Francesco ("Frankie") Quinn displays some of his knives.



LEFT — If he were the last man on earth and had only one knife to survive with, it would probably be the Cold Steel Trailmaster, says Frankie Quinn, shown with the two Trailmasters he owns.

BELOW — The Cold Steel knives Quinn owns and uses in his latest movie, *Indio*.





areas he travels in, he recognizes the need to be prepared for the unexpected with survival skills and gear, particularly knives.

ASG staff members recently traveled to Hollywood where we talked with Frankie about his interest in survival and looked over some of his cutlery. He also shoots and owns several firearms, including an AK-47 assault rifle, he says.

Perhaps his favorite knife is the Cold Steel Trailmaster bowie — he owns two of them as well as two Cold Steel Tantos and two Terminator push daggers. These knives are not only part of his collection but are featured in his latest film, *Indio*, which was being produced at the time we spoke with him.

If he were “the last man on earth”

and had only one knife to take with him into the wilderness to survive with, it would probably be the Trailmaster, says Frankie. “It’s a hard blade. You could chop down a tree to make yourself a home, and it’s also good for small chores. You could also throw it.”

But he also owns and uses quite a variety of other blades, among them the Gerber BMF, the Buckmaster, knives he bought in the Philippines while filming the movie *Platoon* in which he plays the soldier called “Rhah,” and even the military issue knife he used in *Platoon*.

While his work takes him all over the world, he never plans on being anywhere without at least one knife, he says. A knife is a tool too useful and valuable to be without. ●

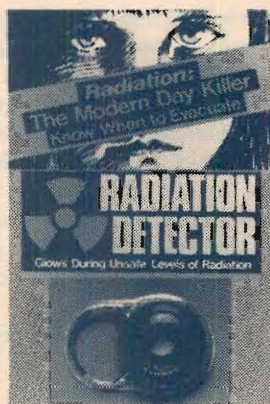
RIGHT — Quinn carries survival gear in this sealed packet he made from a tire tube which is kept in the sheath of his Gerber BMF.



ABOVE & BELOW — Quinn is pictured here wearing his Cold Steel knives during filming of *Indio*. With him are co-stars Brian Dennehy and “Marvelous” Marvin Hagler. The bruise over Quinn’s left eye was created by make-up personnel.



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Poncho Continued from page 18



The poncho will even float, as in this demonstration of a "poncho raft."

knife, and a poncho. Given the choice of but one article I think I might take the poncho. The poncho can literally save your life. Especially in the desert.

One year while hiking Arizona's Superstition Mountains I depleted my water supply. I obtained fresh water with my poncho by stretching it out to let dew settle on it. When one of those tiny desert rainstorms headed my way, I quickly made a poncho "tub" by staking the corners to low bushes and managed to capture a canteenful of rain, enough to see me safely back to civilization.

Even the driest desert has water if you know how to extract it. A poncho saved me a great deal of discomfort — if not my life — during a trek across White Sands, New Mexico. Although it was mid-August and had not rained for weeks, I "found" water using a poncho, a rock, a canteen cup, and a hole I dug in the dry sand.

The canteen cup goes at the bottom of the hole. The poncho lines the hole, the rock at the bottom of the poncho keeps it taut and sloping and slightly clear of the sides of the hole.

The principal of a "water still" is that the sun's heat raises the temperature of the air and soil underneath the poncho until the air is saturated with water vapor. The driest air contains at least some moisture. The vapor begins to condense in tiny droplets on the undersurface of the poncho, because the poncho is relatively cooler than the damp air under it. The droplets slowly run down the sloping underside of the poncho and drip off into the canteen.

The still will even produce during the night. After sundown, the poncho cools rapidly while the temperature of the soil remains relatively high. Water vapor continues to condense on the

undersurface of the poncho.

As much as a quart of water may be obtained in this manner over a 24-hour period.

Your water still may also serve a dual purpose as an animal trap. Water under the poncho attracts snakes and small animals, which crawl down the top surface of the poncho and then cannot climb back out. Rattlesnakes make reasonable survival fare, other snakes less so since many have mushy flesh that tastes revolting.

By my count I have listed 28 different ways to use a poncho. I can still think of others. In fact, the poncho's usefulness is limited only by the imagination and by your needs for it.

In an emergency it makes an excellent sea anchor for a boat. You can use it to cache food and supplies and keep them safe from animals and insects for long periods of time. Cut into strips, it can be used as animal snares, bindings, a tourniquet, a makeshift rope, a halter for a horse.

Several years ago military and civilian manufacturers of the poncho attempted to replace the old-style one with a "space age" model of light weight nylon. Many outdoors magazines advertise the nylon poncho as half the weight and bulk of its predecessor.

The new poncho has much less than half the utility of the old coated poncho. It is so inferior that it does not even repel rain. I can hardly see any Army supply sergeant saying of the nylon poncho, "... It is the most practical and useful piece of equipment..."

The honor of that statement belongs — and will continue to belong — to the OD-colored square of material with the latex coating that has become literally a survival cloak of many uses. ●



Brigade Quartermasters

SURVIVAL ACTION GEAR

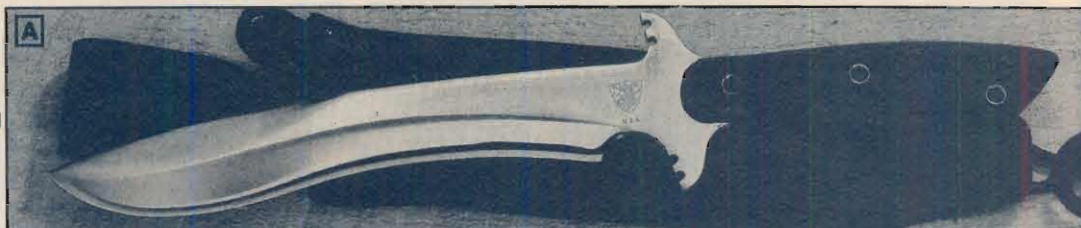
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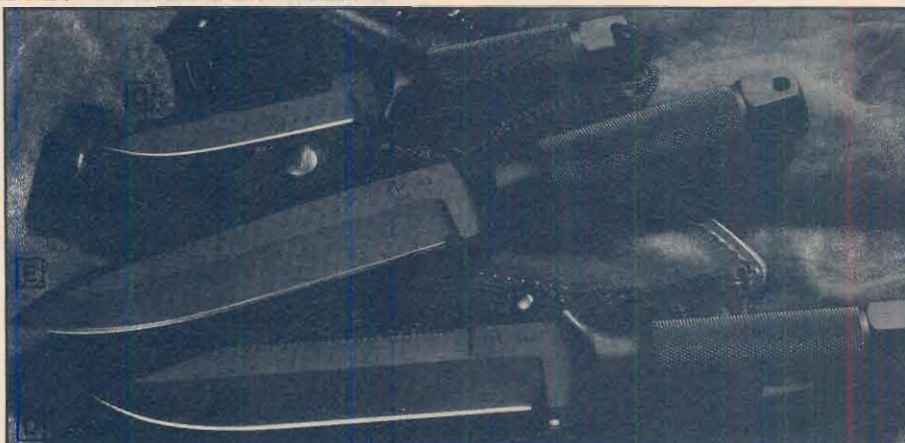
The unique construction creates a watertight compartment in the handle that is O-ring sealed with a removable aluminum butt cap. All blades are hollow ground and heat-treated to Rockwell c57-58. Kal-Gard protective coating produces a matte black durable finish. Custom high-grade cowhide belt sheaths finish these handsome knives. Imported.

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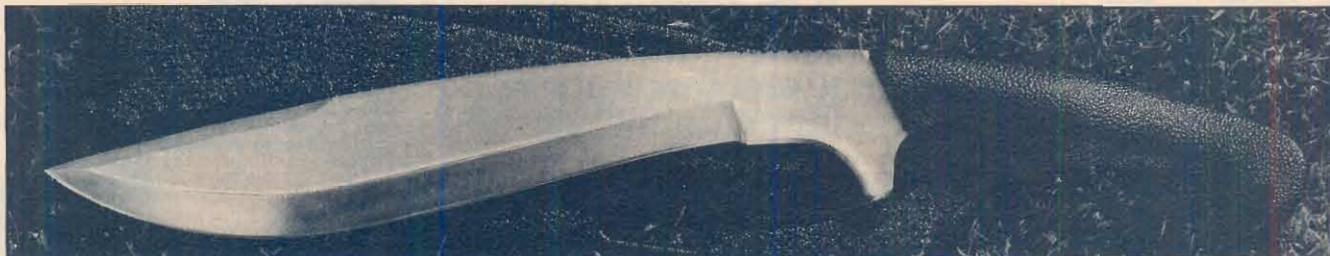
D. REEVE MARK IV

Bowie style blade with forward weight to cut and chop effectively. Metal cutting sawtooth back. Specs: Overall, 12 1/4"; Blade, 7". [1 lb 14 oz] **MK27 \$199.95**



E. REEVE SHADOW II

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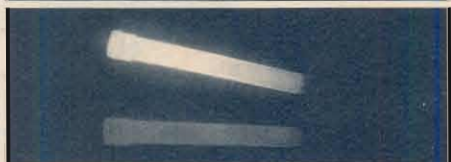
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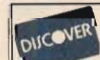
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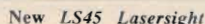
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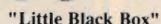
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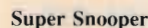
#214005 **\$49.95**



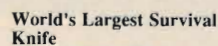
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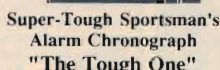
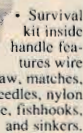


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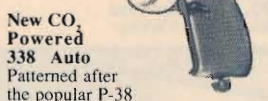
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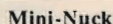
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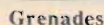


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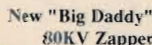
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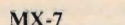
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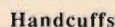
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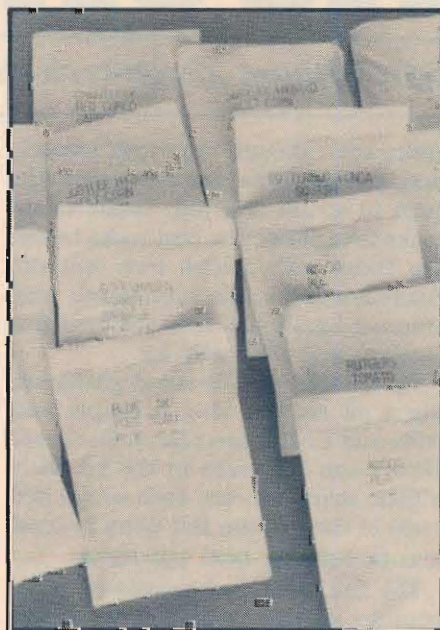
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Staff Report

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Firewood, rocks and trench are ready to make a hot rock bed.

Wilderness Skills:

Hot Rock Bed

Stay warm at night without a high-tech sleeping bag. . .

By Scott Stoddard

THE Stone Age man didn't need a goose down sleeping bag, a Gore-Tex bivy sack, or an insulation pad to keep himself warm at night. Neither did he complain about the frigid conditions during those long hunting expeditions away from home. Using only tools made of stone and bone he had the ability to make fire, and with fire he could make a bed that would stay warm all night long. The hot rock bed.

Making a hot rock bed is fairly easy. First you'll need to find about 30-40 grapefruit size rocks. Don't use river

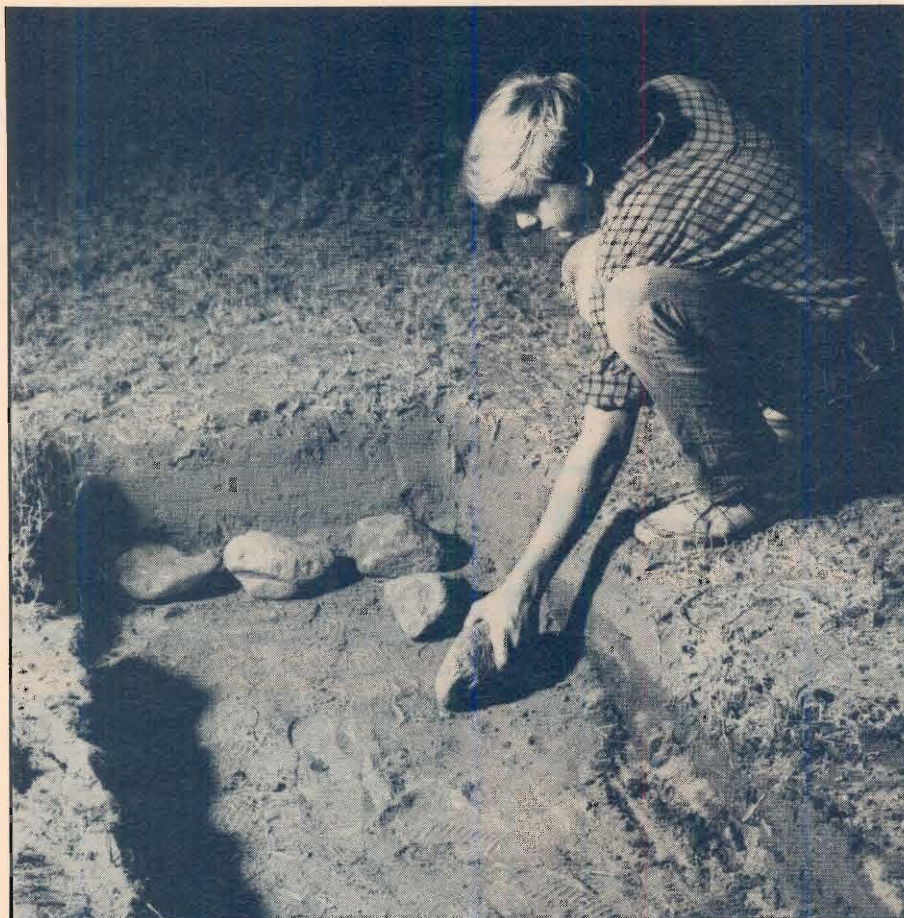
rocks even though they look smooth and rounded. Water trapped inside will turn to steam and may cause these rocks to explode. The best rocks to use are those with a high iron content. Although rocks like hornblende and volcanic basalt will hold the heat the longest, any rock will do.

With rocks and firewood gathered, dig a pit six feet long, a couple feet wide and a little less than a foot deep. Next place the rocks in the pit with a little space between each so the hot coals of the fire can fall down around and thoroughly heat the rocks.

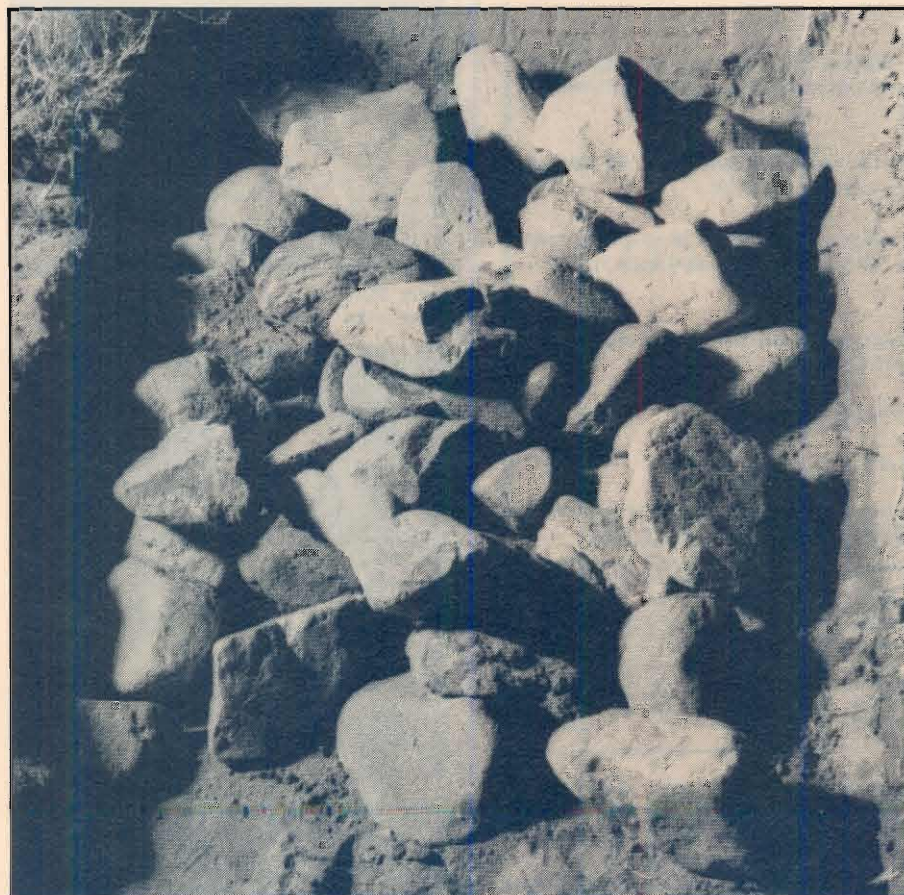
The fire needs to be quite large to produce enough coals to cover the stones and heat them for a few hours. Time is the main ingredient in mak-

ing a hot rock bed. With the rocks heated to almost the red hot stage, the larger coals can be removed and then sand or dry dirt can be shoveled in to cover the rocks. A good three to four inches of dirt will keep you from burning your blanket or jacket as you enjoy the warmth of your hot rock bed. Without a blanket, insulation made of dry grass, leaves, branches or reeds will protect you from the cool air above.

The hot rock bed we made for this series of pictures remained very warm all through the night. After 24 hours had elapsed we dug up some of the rocks and found that they were still too hot to handle. We're convinced that this time tested survival skill is worth having! ●



Jared Orivs places the grapefruit-size rocks in the trench.



The trench full of rocks is ready to be heated.

(Continued on page 46)



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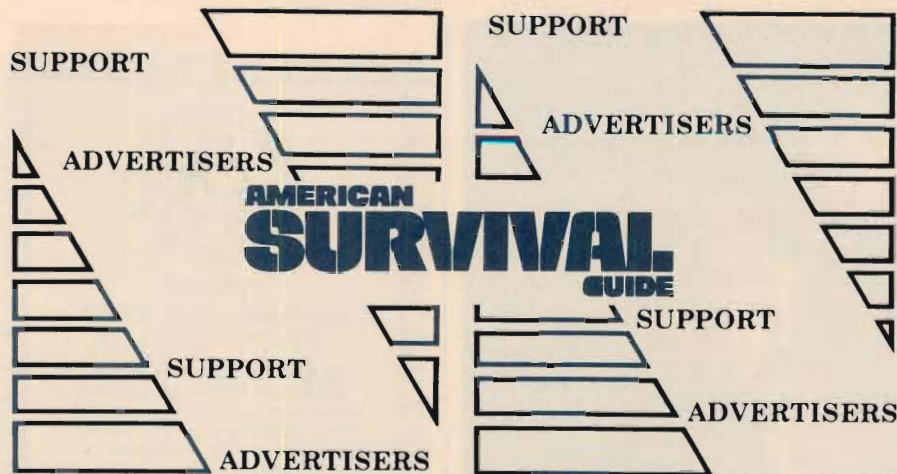
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Hot Rock Bed

(Continued from page 45)



A fire is built to produce plenty of hot coals.



Once the coals have sufficiently heated the rocks, three to four inches of dirt is shoveled on top.



The hot bed remains warm even after 24 hours.



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Omega 10mm Pistol

Continued from page 34



The 10mm cartridge, center (Norma 170-grain jacketed hollow point) is compared with the 9mm NATO, left, and .45 ACP rounds.

adjustable rear sight and interchangeable front sight; Pachmayr-type wrap-around grips; Springfield's forged 1911-A1 frame assembly.

Test Shooting — We took our giveaway gun and about 80 rounds total of Norma and Hornady 170-grain jacketed hollow point and Norma 200-grain full jacket truncated cone 10mm ammunition to a public shooting area and put the Omega through its paces.

Firing fairly rapidly from a standing position at a silhouette target set up 7 yards away from shooters, I had no trouble making multiple hits in the center of the target. You can really feel the power of the 10mm cartridge, which produces considerable recoil compared with the 9mm NATO and .45 ACP rounds. I was glad this gun is a ported model.

The Omega functioned superbly during our shooting session. Some of the shooters experienced a few jams but we attributed this to lack of a firm grip on the gun affecting its recoil cycling of the cartridges. The jams were quickly cleared and once these shooters were more familiar with the weapon they had no further problems with it.

The 10mm cartridge is now commonly commercially available from Norma, Hornady and PMC and other ammunition makers are said to be developing commercial loads in this caliber. It can also be handloaded. With major firms producing guns and cartridges in 10mm, it's clear that this cartridge is established and will be around for some time to come.

The Omega is an outstanding firearm with great potential as a weapon for self defense and other uses. Its well worth the suggested \$850 price. Look one over at a gun shop and enter our giveaway contest. ●

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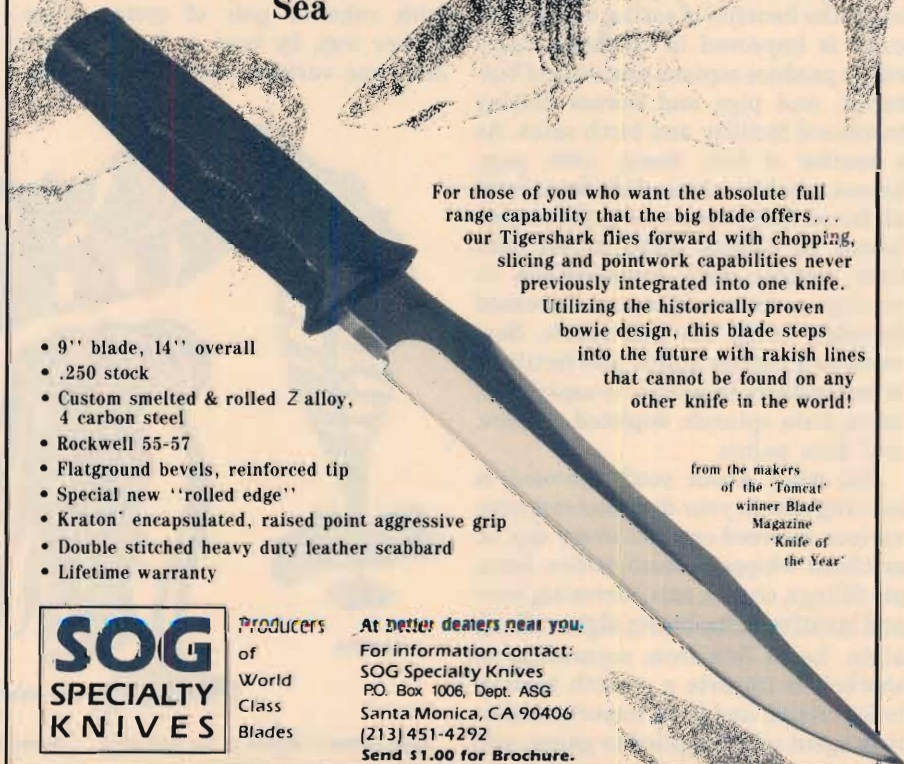
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Survival Foraging: Seaweed

Harvesting nature's bounty from the sea...

By Jim Meuninck

IS there a vital vertebrae missing from your survival posture? Perhaps. What do you know about harvesting the sea? Would this information be useful? Imagine a worst case scenario: the earth is scorched. The season is autumn — too late to plant. And you haven't seen a four legged beast in weeks.

All you have is that vast expanse of saltwater, rising and breaking on the rocks. There appears to be plenty of food in the tidal pools, and seaweed is washed up everywhere. But what sea vegetables are safe to eat?

For over 3,000 years, seaweed — Mother Nature's beach litter — has been used as food, animal fodder, fertilizer, and medicine. In Japan, the average person eats 30 pounds of marine vegetables per year. Hawaiians utilize 40 different species. Elsewhere, athletes claim to have fewer muscle cramps and increased energy after eating seaweed. Animals, too, apparently enjoy the benefits of eating algae: yolk color is improved in chickens, dairy cattle produce copious amounts of butterfat, and pigs and horses display increased fertility and birth rates. As a matter of fact, sheep, cows, pigs, horses, mink, ducks and chickens have all fared well on seaweed supplements (about 10 percent algae mixed with their regular diet). Improvement in vitality, greater weight, and increased breeding being the end result. Seaweed as a garden mulch and fertilizer is particularly beneficial to asparagus, beets, kale, spinach, depleted pasture, and date palms.

But what about you? Seaweed is nothing new in your diet. You consume various seaweed extracts every day, in artificial whipped cream, jellies, jams, pie fillings, cheese, salad dressing, beer and laxatives. One brown algae colloid, algin, keeps fats from separating in sherbet; it imparts a smooth texture to ice cream; and is an important clotting agent when applied to gauze, and

wrapped around wounds.

Given all these benefits, let's beach-comb a tide pool, and harvest some fresh, unprocessed algae (the catch-all name for nearly 25,000 sea plants).

Before you pick the first water plant that floats into view, there are a couple of questionable varieties, that are easy to avoid. One is the foul tasting, thin, hairlike species that clings to mangrove roots in warm waters; and the other, *Desmarestia*, contains sulphuric acid and imparts an unpleasant lemon-like taste. *Desmarestia* is a brown algae that grows in deep water, usually far from coastal areas. Except for these two rare varieties, all other green, red, and brown waterweeds are edible — most palatable when cut fresh.

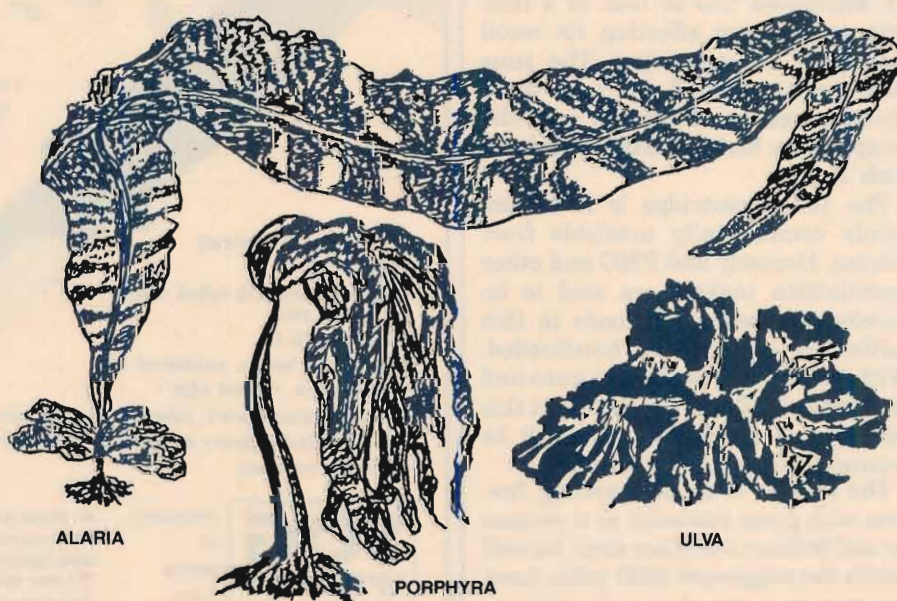
The fine art of harvesting seaweed from a boat requires little effort, simply bend over and pluck a frond free. Be careful not to tear loose the "foot" that anchors the plant to the rocks. From the anchor (holdfast) a new plant will spring forth (certain algae grow more than two feet a day). Of course, you can harvest seaweed from a boat with rake or pair of oyster tongs. Either way, by boat or by foot, here are some varieties worth looking for:

— **KELP**, a brown seaweed, is found up and down both coasts. It may be collected off the beach, washed, then soaked in weak wine vinegar until it is pliable. After air drying, scrape off the blue-green surface layer. This procedure removes imbedded sand from the Kelp's skin and provides a thick white core which may be chopped, shredded or ground. It may be eaten immediately (best in soups and stews) or further dried to be used later.

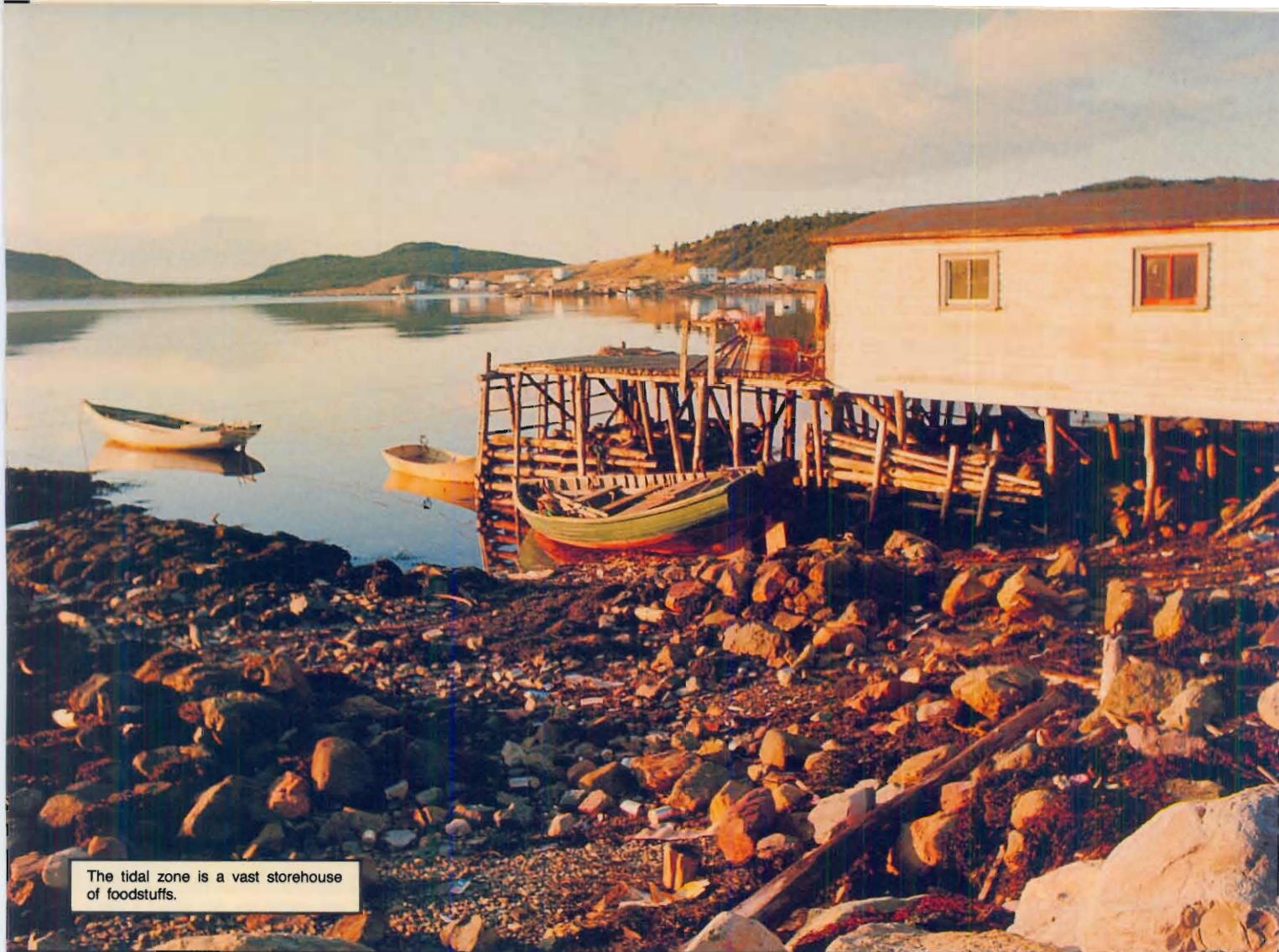
More simply, kelp may be cut into thin strips, and dried in the sun. Then grind it into flaky powder to be used as a salt substitute and flavoring to punch up stews, clam chowder and the like. Athletes claim this "kelp salt" prevents muscle cramps and provides more energy — with a nutritious complement of vitamins and minerals, including vitamin C.

— **DULSE** and **ULVA**, like kelp, are excellent sources of iodine, they are particularly rich in vitamins A and E.

— **IRISH MOSS**, a common seaplant of New England, and several other red seaweeds yield agar-agar. This indigestible gelatin may be used as a laxative.



Three common algae of the tidal zone... Alaria, Porphyra and Ulva (sea lettuce).



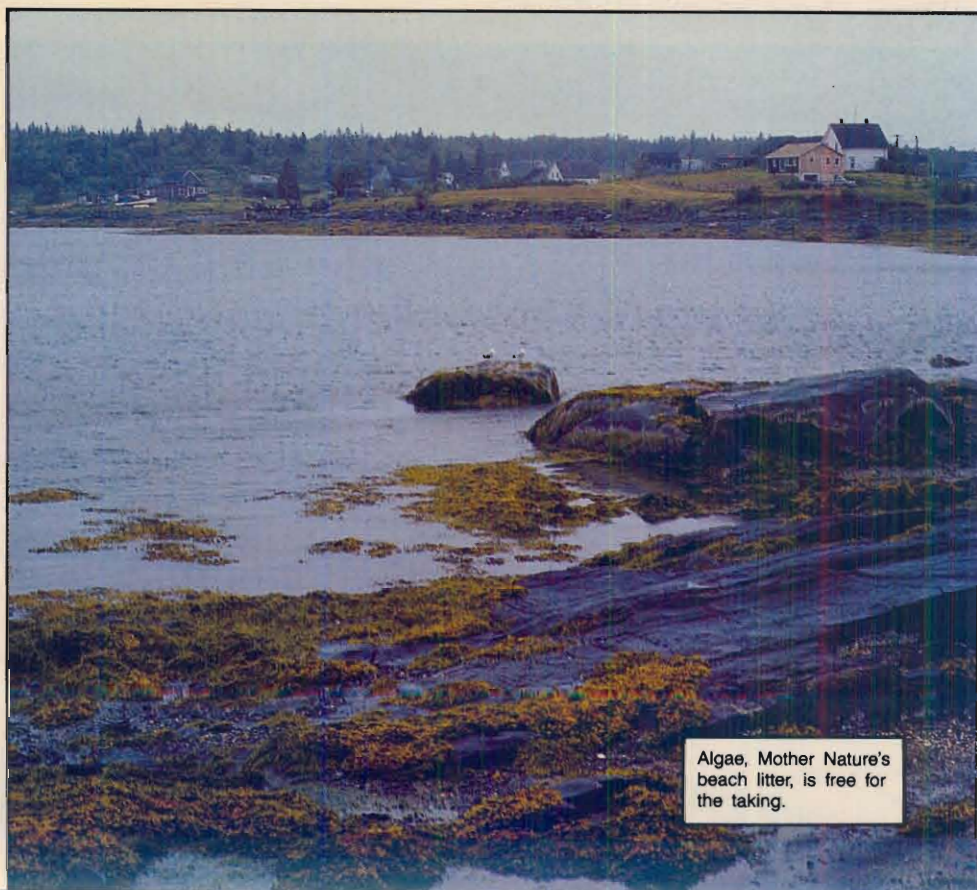
The tidal zone is a vast storehouse of foodstuffs.

From a survival perspective, agar-agar may be used as a short term food preservative because bacteria cannot digest it.

—**EEL GRASS** too is edible and vitamin rich, but, like most algae, its vast store protein and carbohydrates are locked up in cellulose — indigestible to humans. Its greatest value is as fiber and for its mineral, vitamin and iodine content.

With your algae gatherings bulging out of your collecting bag, simply pluck loose a frond with your hand and pop it into your mouth. The texture is inviting, the taste subtle. The health benefits substantial. What you can't eat fresh, hang and dry in the breeze. Take some home to your pet, and mulch the leftovers into the garden.

If you fail to develop a taste for marine algae, don't despair. What you leave behind continues its greater work. Three quarters of the earth is water, a breeding bath where algae photosynthesize copious amounts of life



Algae, Mother Nature's beach litter, is free for the taking.



With a mask and snorkel you can collect a year's supply of sea vegetables in a few minutes.

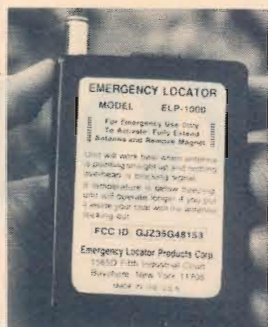


Seaweed can often be harvested from the shore. It can be used as food, animal fodder, fertilizer and medicine.

sustaining oxygen into the atmosphere. Also, they are the largest consumers of carbon dioxide — a poisonous by-product of our industrial society. Indeed, marine algae make it possible for you to survive, even thrive. So, the next time you smell the sweet sea breeze, remember the algae — they are a vital cog in the engine of life.

For more information on collecting and preparing seaplants read: *DIVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUN AND PROFIT*, (\$9.50) by the author. Write Media Methods, 24097 North Shore, Edwarsburg, MI 49112. Money back guarantee.

Other algae references: *THE SEA-VEGETABLE BOOK*, by Judith Madlener; *SEA VEGETABLE RECIPES* from the Oregon Coast (available from the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology); *COMMON SEAWEEDS OF THE PACIFIC COAST*, by Robert Waaland; and, *THE SEA VEGETABLE GOURMET COOKBOOK AND FORAGER'S GUIDE*, by John and Eleanor LeWallen. ●



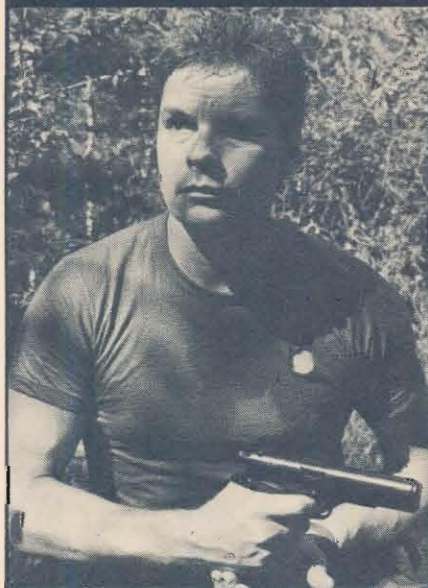
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Staff Report

The company that produces one of the best selling superbikes, the Ninja motorcycle, now has designed a powerful portable generator for camping, cabin, or home emergency use. The Kawasaki Ninja 700 has a power

rating of 700 watts and features an electric One-Touch Start button.

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the fully enclosed steel body has an exclusive Uni-Flow cooling system ensuring that even ten steps away, the sound of the Ninja is no louder than normal conversation.

Automatic circuit breakers on both AC and DC outlets and an oil alarm system that stops the generator and lights an indicator before the oil level drops too low, protect the generator before harm can occur.

The high capacity fuel tank holds 2.5 litres (0.66 gallons) of gasoline for about 3.8 hours of running time. Weighing only 51 pounds, the Ninja with its built in carrying handle is light and compact enough to go anywhere you want to take it. Contact: Kawasaki, 9950 Jeronimo Road, Irvine, CA 92718; (714) 770-0400. ●



LEFT — by simply pushing and turning the starter button, the Ninja 700 provides you with power.



RIGHT — The strong built-in carrying handle makes the Ninja 700 easy to take anywhere.



LEFT — With one touch of the shut-off switch the engines stops and the ignition system is automatically reactivated for instant restarts.

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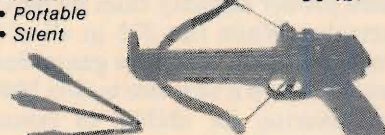
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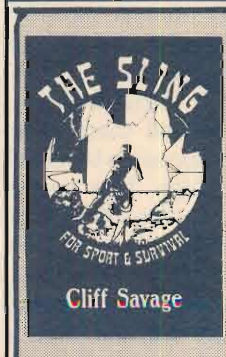
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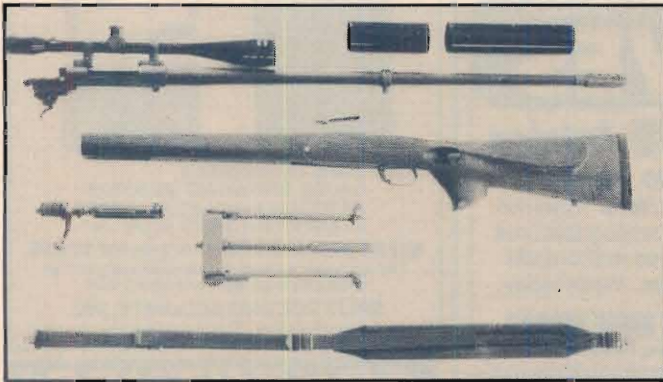
Cliff Savage

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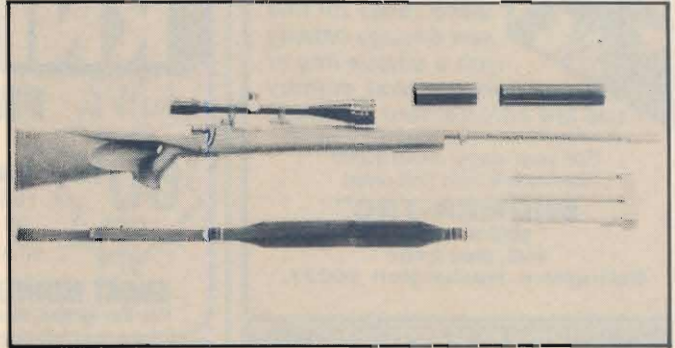
Practical Long Range Sniper

The MTLRPS-15 will make the job of future snipers much easier, even out to 1,000 yards and one mile. . .

—By Lenny Hoover—



The MTLRPS-15 and its sub assemblies



NOT far outside Winslow, Arizona, Scott Selby of A to Z Gunsmithing is manufacturing a rifle that has a potential one mile range and only weighs a tad over 15 lbs. with bipod and scope!

The rifle is a total departure from sniping equipment used for extreme distances in the past. Scott calls his radically new sniping arm the MTLRPS-15. While long, the name is descriptive. It stands for Mobile, Tactical, Long Range, Precision System. The 15 stands for the rifle's weight of approximately 15 lbs.

The rifle is built around the .375 Improved round and while this round is a wildcat, all one has to do is fire-form a standard .375 Holland & Holland in the weapon and then using standard off shelf components to reload the fireformed cartridge. This means no special presses, as the .50 caliber shooter must purchase. All Scott uses is a standard 270-grain flat based spitzer, commonly available powders and the fireformed brass. Anyone with a set of .375 dies can do it and they are included with the weapon.

The .375 Imp. has about 20 percent

more powder capacity than its parent cartridge. While the .375 in all of its loadings is great for large game, Scott has turned up a new side to this 1940s era favorite, its ability to remain accurate and stable at extremely long ranges, while offering the shooter a lot of bullet mass with a good ballistic coefficient.

At 500 yards the 270-grain bullet from the MTLRPS-15 has about the same remaining energy as a 180-grain bullet from a factory .30/06 load at the muzzle. At 1,000 yds. that same 270-grainer is roughly equivalent to being hit by a 265-grain bullet launched from a .44 Magnum carbine, with a 20-inch barrel, at the muzzle. That's what anyone has to call a good power to weight ratio.

Scott uses a 98 large ring Mauser, commercial style bolt action to begin one of his sniper rifles. This Mauser action is forge machined and is a proven solid turnbolt. After a great deal of modification Scott mates a 28-inch, heavy tapered contour, International Match grade, chromoly barrel. This action and barrel are the principle reasons why with modification the rifle

will shoot into one hole at 100 yards and 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch groups at 500 yards.

Next Scott machines a compensator/muzzle brake which does reduce the flash signature. This device is a timed gas release system which actually works. There is no muzzle climb in this rifle upon firing at all. The muzzle actually is forced down by escaping gases. In the prone position with the bipod down the bipod's feet are driven into the ground after several rounds. No gases escape towards the earth so the sniper does not have to worry about a dust signature giving away his position. The compensator/muzzle brake reduces felt recoil to that of a .30/06. The firearm, even in the prone position were the shooter does not have the flesh padding that other shooting positions provide, is a dream to shoot. The recoil is negligible.

Even the stock is unique. The densely grained select American Walnut stock has an upswept comb above the bore axis. This greatly assists target acquisition through a powerful scope. The Monte Carlo style stock also has a thumb hole and integral pistol grip to arrest and control some of the recoil



as well.

The bipod is of a sturdy and unique design. It is quick detachable and folding and is mounted to the forearm of the stock on an extension of bar stock. This mounts the bipod to the forearm where all bipods should be and at the same time moves the bipod out towards the muzzle providing a better balance, feel and controllability to the weapon that I have never encountered in any other system. The bipod system alone is worthy of a patent, it would seem to me!

Optics — I have saved the best for last. Any sniping system is only as good as the optics attached. After much searching Scott chose Tasco's TS 36 by 44 fixed powered optical instrument. This is the most powerful scope I have ever seen mounted to a firearm. The device is really nothing more than a spotting scope with reticles.

Resolution is superb bringing targets at 1,500 yards right in for close

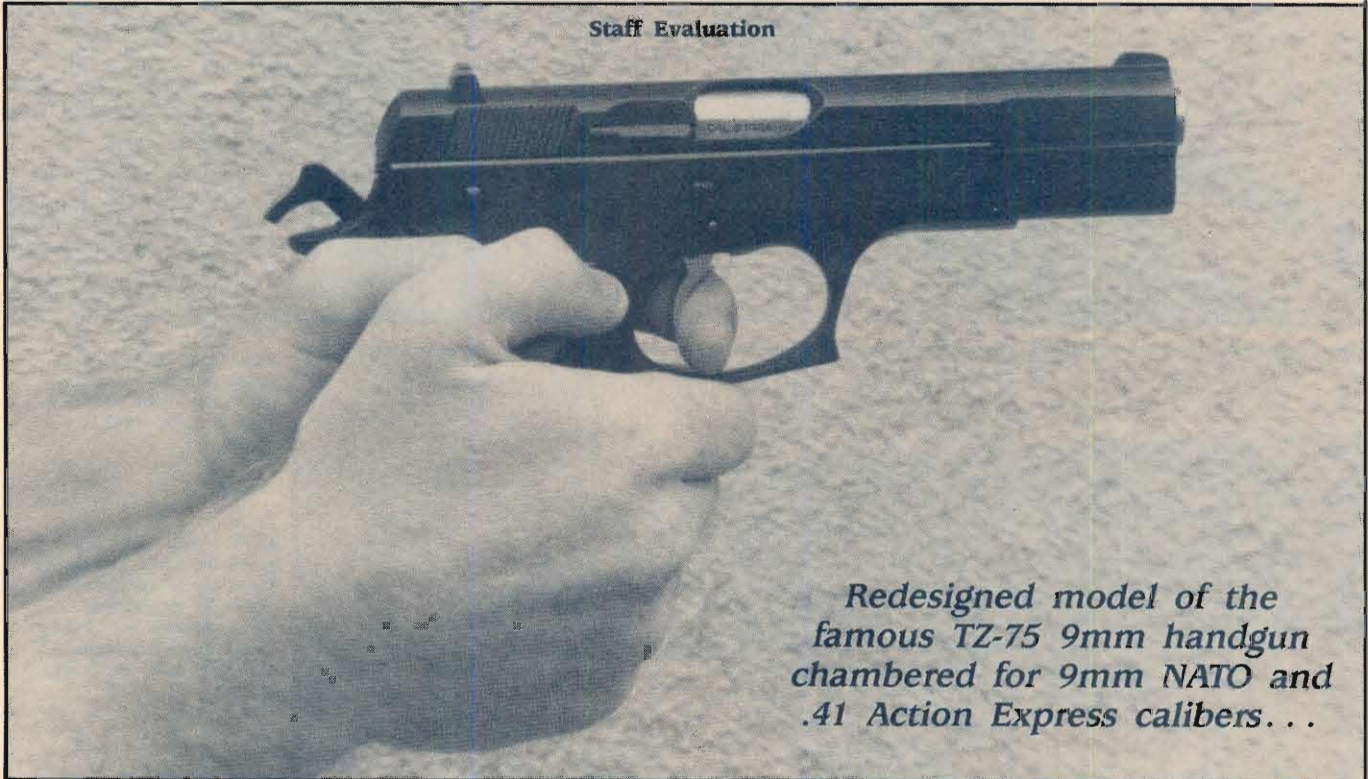
(Continued on page 64)



F.I.E. Corp.:

TZ-75 Series 88 Pistol

Staff Evaluation

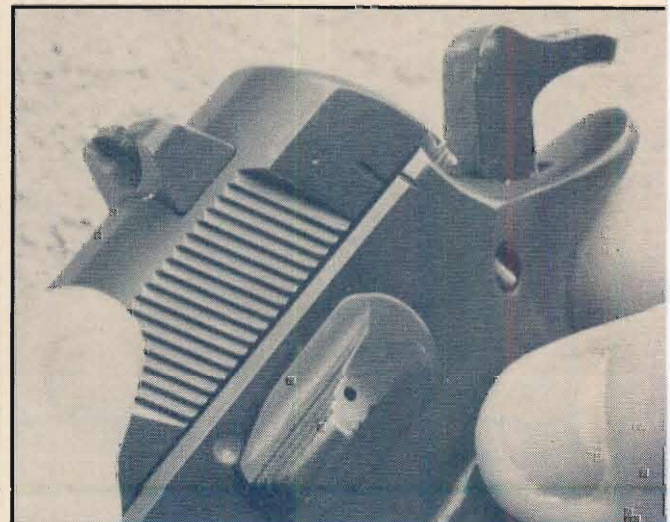


Redesigned model of the famous TZ-75 9mm handgun chambered for 9mm NATO and .41 Action Express calibers. . .

THE popular TZ-75 9mm semi-automatic pistol from F.I.E., a likeness of the famous Czech CZ-75, has been redesigned and upgraded and is now available in both 9mm NATO and the powerful new .41 Action Express calibers.

F.I.E. says there may soon be conversion kits available so that with a quick change of barrel, magazine and recoil spring the same gun can be made to fire either round. ASG staff tried out the original TZ-75 and stated in the July 1984 issue that it is a

well made, versatile ("F.I.E.'s TZ-75 pistol will devour and digest any sort of 9mm Parabellum ammo with absolutely minimal hangup"), straight shooting and economical handgun for personal defense. This gun will still be available in addition to the new



Aligning the two notches at the rear of the slide and frame is the first step in the takedown process.

T-75 Series 88 Pistol



ABOVE & ABOVE LEFT — Sights are fixed and non-adjustable. Rear sight is a square notch. Front is a blade.

LEFT — For those who prefer the "cock and locked" condition for auto pistols, the Series 88 incorporates a frame mounted sear locking safety. There is also an automatic firing pin locking safety.

TZ-75 Series 88 Pistol: Tech Specs

Caliber	9mm Parabellum, .41 AE
Lengths:	
Overall	7 ⁷ / ₈ inches
Barrel	4 ¹ / ₂ inches
Height	5 ¹ / ₂ inches
Weights:	
Empty	2 lbs., 2 ozs.
With loaded magazine	2 lbs., 11.5 ozs.
Magazine capacity	15 rds.
Grips	walnut
Sights	fixed blade front, fixed square notch rear
Manufacturer	Fratelli Tanfoglio, Italy
U.S. Distributor	F.I.E. Corp., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 4866, Hialeah, FL 33014; (305) 685-5966

version Series 88.

Besides the addition of the .41 AE magnum caliber, the Series 88 differs from the original TZ in several ways. The shape is somewhat different and the Series 88 is heavier, with harder steel. Production models will have bobbed hammers, among other changes. The gun we examined and shot is a prototype.

For those who like to carry a semi-auto pistol in the "cocked and locked" fashion of the .45 ACP Government Model, in which the pistol is cocked with a round in the chamber and the safety is engaged, the Series 88 pistol has a frame mounted sear locking safety permitting this manner of carrying the pistol. The original TZ-75 uses a hammer drop safety. Additionally, there is a Colt style automatic firing pin locking safety on the Series

88.

The Series 88 barrel swells at the muzzle, improving lock-up and overall function as well as facilitating threading of the barrel to accommodate a compensator.

The slide stop will be an elongated combat style and the magazine release has been re-done. Improved recessed slide serrations give shooters more room to grasp when operating the slide. The rear sight will be removable and can be replaced with custom sights. Grips available will be walnut, rosewood, ebony micarta, black checkered rubber, checkered, smooth, or scrimshawed ivory polymer. Three styles of finish will be available in each caliber: satin blue, matte chrome and an IPSC model with blued slide and matte chrome frame. Suggested retail prices at this writing range from about \$425 to \$445.



The trigger and front of the trigger guard on the prototype Series 88 pistol are smooth.

Test Firing — We went to a local shooting range with our loaner prototype Series 88 and boxes of 115-grain Remington JHP, PMC FMJ, Federal American Eagle FMJ and Winchester Silvertip HP ammunition.

We ran about 100 rounds of the different types of ammo through the gun without any malfunction. Firing from a rest at 25 yards, our best groups ranged from 2 inches to 3½ inches. The fixed sights on the gun took some getting used to before we were able to zero in on the targets with the right sight picture, but we found the Series 88 prototype to be a straight shooting, reliable weapon.

The Series 88 is an exciting new addition to the the 9mm semiauto pistol market line up. Its large capacity gives you plenty of firepower for personal defense and the weapon appears to function reliably. The 9mm model Series 88s should be available to the public by the time you read this article. The 41 AE caliber guns are expected to be on the market late this year. ●

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Altimeter/Barometer (Continued from page 25)

1. Map symbols on the U.S. Geological Survey Maps: 7½ minute series — 2½ inches to the mile and the 15 minutes series approximately 1 inch to the mile. The heights are given on the peaks of hills, at spot elevations, bench marks (B.M.), lookout tower and lakes.

2. At known points on the map where two line features intersect the height may be deduced from reading the contour lines (lines of equal height drawn on the map), e.g., bridge over a river, stream junction, intersection of footpath with fence, cutline, forest edge, power line, stream, etc. (see Figure II).

3. Guide books often give heights of parking lots, mountain huts and cabins, passes and summits.

The altimeter can be used as a navigational aid in hilly or mountainous country and is especially valuable in densely wooded country and in fog when visibility is restricted. It adds another dimension to your navigation — knowledge of height when used in conjunction with a map and compass can verify location. It is especially useful in giving an EP or estimated position (approximate) rather than a fix which is a known or exact position. The following examples demonstrate the value of the altimeter.

1. Ascending or descending a featureless slope on a compass bearing the altimeter can be used to indicate location (Figure II). This is the intersection of the contour line found by using the altimeter with the compass bearing you are travelling on. The altimeter will also tell you how much height you have left to climb and, when used in conjunction with a watch, can check your speed of travel, and provide additional information whether to continue or turn back.

2. The altimeter may be used even without a compass when ascending or descending a ridge to give the approximate location. In this instance the topography or shape of the land provides the line feature (Figure III). When descending a featureless ridge which you have to leave at an unmarked point of known altitude the altimeter will tell you when you have arrived at that point to leave the ridge.

3. When traversing a slope and wishing to maintain a constant height by contouring, the altimeter greatly assists in maintaining the correct altitude especially since people have a

tendency to lose height when contouring.

4. It is possible to establish your position in featureless terrain by using two intersecting compass bearings on known points at right angles to each other (Figure V). This is known as resection. However, it is not always possible to find two known points at right angles to one another. In this instance you can use your altimeter to provide your position on or near a contour line and use one compass bearing from one known point to intersect with this line and indicate your position.

All the above examples use the principles of resection — the intersection of one line feature, a contour line, defined by the altimeter with another line feature; ridge, river, compass bearing. Other lines such as roads, fences, trails, creeks, powerlines, cutline, forest boundaries can also be utilized.

It is important to remember that an altimeter is not an absolute indicator

of altitude. It will indicate changes of elevation over short periods of time and small distance.

When camping out note and record the altimeter reading on arrival and check it again in the morning. If the altimeter is reading high in the morning this could indicate decreasing pressure and possibly deteriorating weather.

If on the other hand the altimeter is reading low, barometer pressure will have increased and there is the possibility of improved weather. When on the move constantly checking/calibrating the altimeter against known heights regular correction of height downwards indicates possibly deteriorating weather whereas constant correction of height upwards indicates possible improvement in the weather. The barometric trend is more useful than absolute barometric pressure in forecasting weather but requires that one is stationary in order to obtain sufficient readings.

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It is important to utilize the barometric trend with other weather signs in order to determine the forecast — these include upper wind speed and

direction; cloud type, height, development; wind speed and direction and temperature. Tables 1 and 2 are examples of basic forecasting.

WEATHER FORECASTING

TABLE 1.	BAROMETER FALLS	WEATHER TREND
	Slowly and Continuously	Rain/Snow and Wind
	Rapidly between 10 - 12 AM With W. Wind With N.N.E. Wind	Deterioration Within 12-24 hrs Deterioration Within 48 hrs
	Very Rapidly	Storm
	Suddenly in Summer	Thunderstorm
	After Stillstand During Thunderstorm	General Rain

N.B. Expected weather sets is only when the rising or falling of the barometer stops.

TABLE 2.	BAROMETER RISING	WEATHER TREND
	Slowly and Steadily	Prevailing Dry and Clear
	Rapidly	Temporary Improvement
	Rapidly after low pressure with falling temperature and rain and snow fall	N & E Wind Dry and Steady
	At the Beginning or During a Thunderstorm	Fair Weather
	Irregularly	Mostly Variable and Windy

N.B. Expected weather sets in only when the rising or falling of the barometer stops.

When using the altimeter the most accurate reading is obtained by holding the instrument level in the palm of your hand and tapping the instrument with your index finger. The pointer will fluctuate and the mid point of these fluctuations is the correct reading to take. The altimeter is a useful instrument for the serious outdoorsman, however, it requires practice to use effectively and proficiently. Patience and practice will be rewarded by improved navigation and forecasting ability. ●

Figure (i)
POINTS TO RESET YOUR ALTIMETER
- LOCATION/ALTITUDE KNOWN

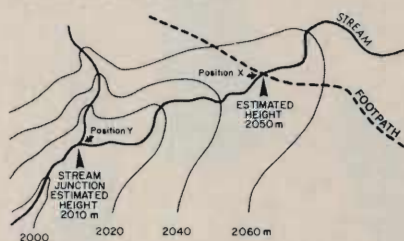


Figure (ii)
FINDING LOCATION USING COMPASS
AND ALTIMETER

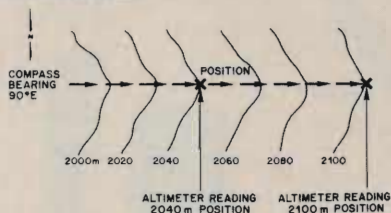


Figure (iii)
FINDING LOCATION USING
TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE AND ALTIMETER

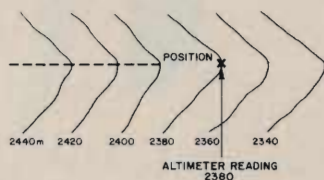
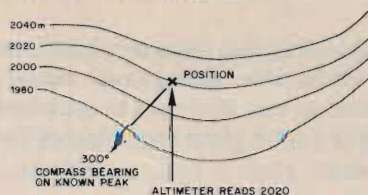


Figure (v)
DETERMINING POSITION BY USING AN
ALTIMETER READING AND A COMPASS
BEARING ON A KNOWN FEATURE



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Staff Report



Starting at top left clockwise: Kitchen knife #1, Kitchen knife #2, drop point skinner, Apache Hunter #2, Apache Hunter #1, SWAT #2. Center row left to right: Kitchen knife #3, Salt Water Filet (9.5 and 7-inch blades).

Larry Albach has been making knives for over nine years and has come up with a series of custom knives that are designed for a lifetime of heavy use. We visited his immaculate knifemaking shop and came away very impressed with his work and his philosophy behind the making of his

knives.

All materials used in his standard knives have been time-proven and are of the finest quality. The blades are made of ATS-34 high carbon stainless steel. This steel is outstanding in edge retention and has superior corrosion resistance. Heat treating is done by a

rigidly controlled process which consists of double tempering, subzero stabilizing, and testing. The standard finish is a satin glass bead blasted finish which gives a dull, nonreflective surface.

Knife handles are made of green canvas micarta. Canvas micarta has a



The ten-inch blade of the Survival Fighter is Larry's personal choice for trips into the field.

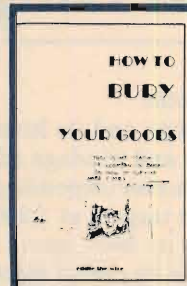
rough textured feel with a good looking grain effect. All handles are multiple pinned and epoxied to form a solid, carefree unit.

Larry also makes the sheaths sold with his knives. Only the finest leather is used. Each sheath is carefully formed fitted to the individual knife and locked stitched with waxed linen thread. The leather is then oiled and sealed for a superior finish. Also available for knives under four inches long is a

horizontal belt sheath that is quite handy to use.

Many custom knives are bought as objects of art and never see use in the field. Larry classifies his custom knives as work knives and the rugged, sturdy, full tang construction testifies to that fact. Write or call for a detailed brochure and price list: L.O. Albach Custom Crafted Knives, 7537 Del Mar Lane, La Palma, CA 90623; (800) 544-KNIF or (714) 521-7457 in CA. •

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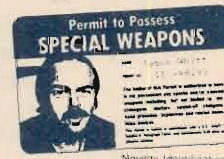
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Practical Long Range Sniper

(Continued from page 55)

scrutiny by the shooter.

Tasco's powerful scope and its huge amounts of elevation and windage adjustments allow the shooter (depending on the load) to fire on targets at 1,200 to 1,400 yards with *no hold over*.

All adjustments can be dialed right into the scope. This feature alone makes the weapon system unmatched in its long range accuracy ability. During testing Scott and I both upon occasion were able to spot our own hits at 500 yards before the target spotter (who was using a spotting scope 100 yards from the target) could radio where the bullets were striking! The Tasco TS 36 is mounted on a massive two piece base which in over 500 rounds of full house .375 Imp. Magnum rounds fired through the weapon system has shown no tendency to loosen or deviate in the slightest from its zero. The word is rugged.

The Tasco scope comes with metal threaded lens caps and a sweet two piece metal optical hood system which allows the shooter to select a 6-, 8- or when threaded together 14-inch optical hood. These hoods allow the sniper to fire on the most bright and difficult sunlit, backlighted targets.

If you already have not gotten the drift, the MTLRPS-15 is simply the finest long range weapon system on the market today. Nothing else I have

seen from .308 to .50 caliber offers so many surgically precise features. From the precision crown and cut job (which you cannot see due to the compensator) on the free floating barrel to Pachmayr's fine Decelerator recoil pad the weapon is a thoroughbred in every respect.

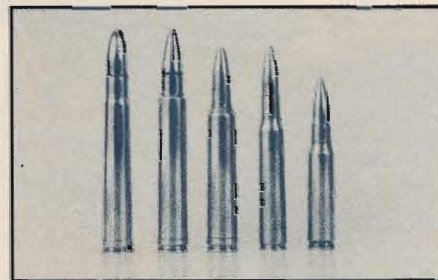
Even the littlest things are well thought out such as the redundant sling swivel mounts on both a barrel band and the bipod. This allows the shooter to carry the rifle slung with the bipod on or off. The bipod comes with a case which can be attached to a belt (even the large web belt). In short you are buying a weapon system not just somebody's idea of a sniper rifle.

Having taken an interest in this unique design early in the rifle's manufacture I was present at almost all of the weapon's test sessions. Scott submitted the rifle to tough test after test and the firearm displayed its true rugged field ability at each one.

The chronograph testing placed the 270-grain spitzer bullet's velocity at 3,040 fps. At 500 yards the bullet is still sizzling along at 2,150 fps.

Scott is currently testing a 300-grain boattail spitzer and it looks very promising at range. Testing for accuracy was tough due to the wind conditions in east central Arizona during the

Common sniper cartridges. From left, the parent cartridge, .375 Holland and Holland, the fireformed .375 Improved Magnum, the .338 Magnum (these are all belted magnums — note belt at bottom of the cases), the .30/06 and the 7.62 NATO or .308 round.



spring. Eager to shoot the rifle after so much labor Scott did not get good groups at 500 and 1,000 yards in 25- to 30-mile-an-hour gusting winds. What amazed me was the shooter's ability to consistently adjust windage internally (very large adjustments) and repeatedly strike the target at all.

Finally a relatively calm day arrived with the gusts only hitting 5 to 10 miles per hour. 500-yard testing revealed that the weapon was accurate indeed. While most three-round groups ranged from 3 to 4 inches. One group, the first, measured an amazing $2\frac{3}{8}$ -inches.

A large target was manufactured for 1,000 yard testing. The target consisting of two pieces of clamped plywood and painted white, allowed better target acquisition. While hampered once again by wind a day arrived when the wind cooperated a bit more than usual. In 5- to 10-mile-an-hour winds Scott fired several rounds at the plywood and after some adjustments and cleaning he fired two amazing groups. The first one a tight $7\frac{1}{4}$ -inch group and the second after another windage adjustment measured $11\frac{3}{8}$ -inches. Estimated velocity at this distance is around 1,400 fps. That's about like getting hit by an AK-47 near by you.

In closing, a few miscellaneous points should be mentioned. Much of the Winchester casings Scott has used have been reloaded up to seven times and as of yet no case ruptures or cracks have been observed. This attests to the precise barreling and chambering process of this system. The weapon disassembles with just a screwdriver to 39.5 inches, making airborne or sea-borne insertion very possible as well as portage in the trunk or back seat of a car. The rifle's balance and light weight make it easily man portable

MTLRPS-15 SPECIFICATIONS

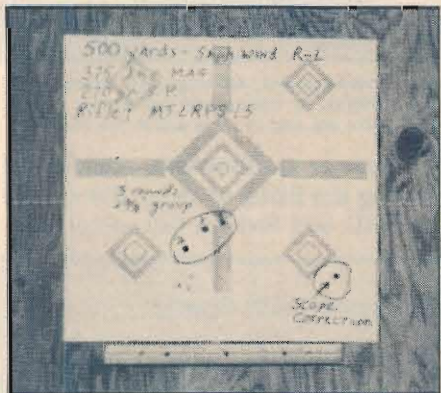
Caliber	.375 Improved Magnum
Operation	manually operated turn-bolt, two position safety
Feed Mechanism	single shot, 3-round blind magazine
Weight Empty	12.5 lbs. without bipod. With bipod and scope 15 lbs., $3\frac{1}{2}$ ounces
Length overall	51 inches. Length will vary depending on customer's length of pull
Barrel	premium International Match grade, heavy tapered contour
Barrel length	28 inches
Action	heavily modified, 98 large ring commercial style
Stock	high density, select walnut
Trigger	fully adjustable
Sights	optical only; receiver drilled and tapped, 2-piece base system and Tasco TS 36 by 44 scope included
Price	\$3,500, complete with hard case, scope mounts, scope, 2-piece optical hood system, threaded metal lens caps, sling, swivels and mounts, loading dies, bipod & bipod belt case, weapons manual & handloading data brochure, 500-yard test target
Finish	stock filled, hand rubbed oil, metal surfaces excluding scope, zinc-phosphate parkerization
Manufacturer	A to Z Gunsmithing, Dept. M-15a Rt. 2 Box 22763, Show Low, AZ 85901
Options	sporting configurations, checkered finishes, optional metal finishes

by a single individual with all of the support equipment such as ammo, food, etc.

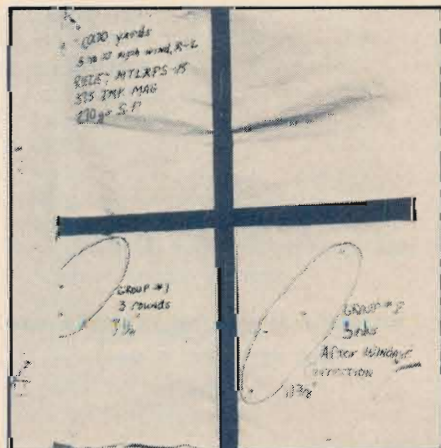
This makes long range recon and tactical missions possible with just one's self or an observer/spotter along. This cannot be said of the much touted .50 caliber in its sniper variations. The lightest of them weighs 30 lbs. with most of them ranging from 35 to 50 lbs. This high weight makes the .50, no matter how you look at it, a crew served weapon.

Scott's MTLRPS-15 would work well at long range against soft targets as well as light aircraft and exposed communication antennas and dishes. The average house could be well ventilated as well.

Scott is considering adding a monopod for the butt of the weapon to assist in extremely long range shots. Just resting the firearm gives the observer a feeling of elegant menace. In short, the MTLRPS-15 will make the job of future snipers much easier even out to 1,000 yards and one mile. The sniper's credo of "One shot, one kill!" isn't a dream with this weapon system, it's a reality! ●



Groups obtained with the MTLRPS-15 from 500 and 1,000 yards.

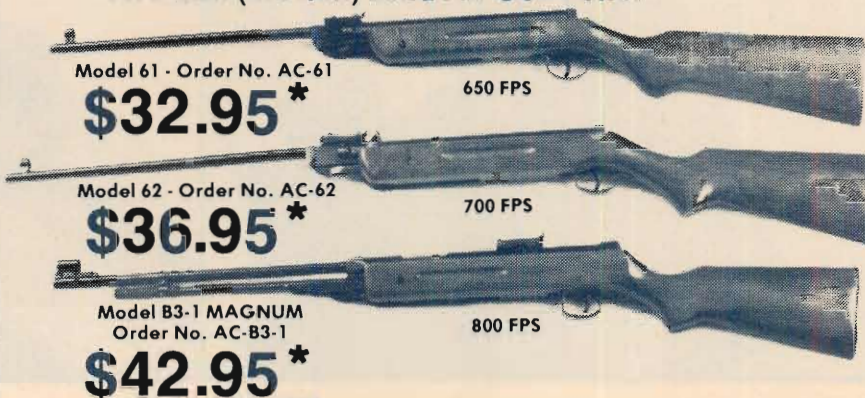


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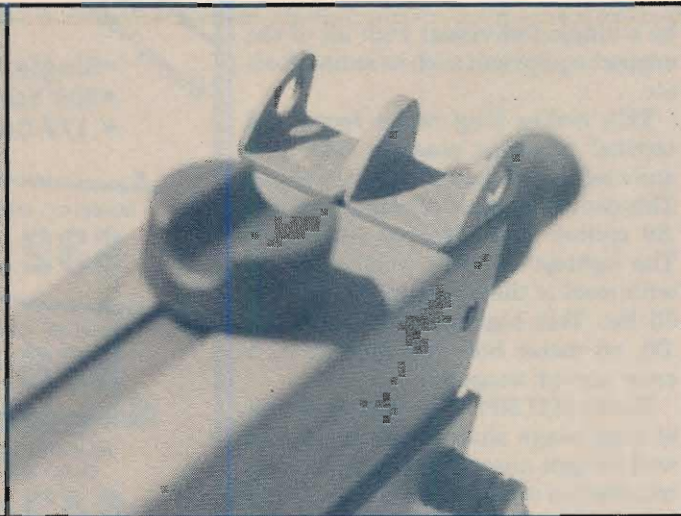
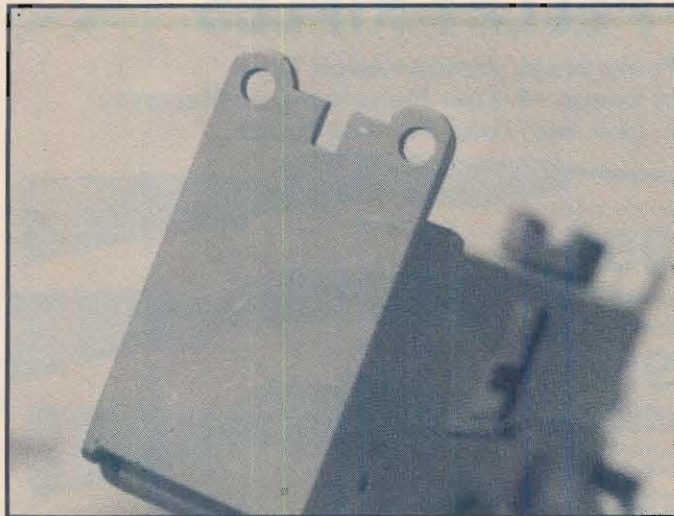
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Partisan Avenger .45 ACP Assault Pistol

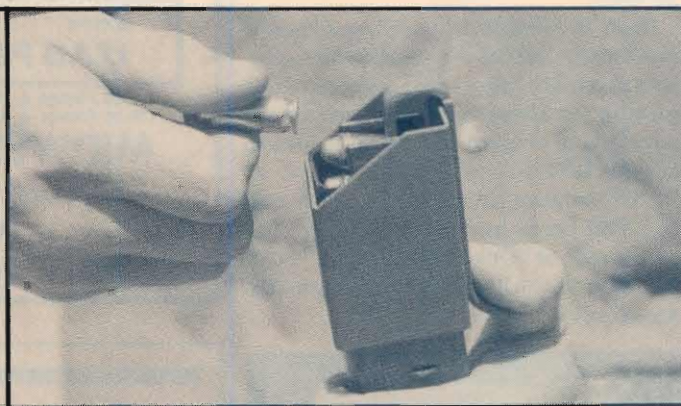
Continued from page 9



Sights are large and fixed.



The 6¼-inch barrel is threaded for use with optional accessories.



The Avenger magazine loader. These jacketed semi-wadcutters would not work in the Avenger, which is designed for military type ball ammo, although some types of hollowpoints are said to cycle well in the pistol.

kerized non-reflective finish. The Partisan weighs in on the heavy side at 5½ lbs. empty and 7 lbs., 10 ozs. with loaded magazine, but the weight helps keep down muzzle flip and recoil when firing the big .45 ACP rounds. Trigger pull is reported as 6 lbs. but we thought it was heavier on our test gun. Although we did not have a gauge available to check it, trigger pull seemed more in the range of 10 lbs. Aaron Zelman, president of Patriot Distribution Company, states that putting lubricant on the sear will lighten trigger pull somewhat. If even lighter pull is desired, a simple gunsmithing operation is all that's required, he adds. The strong trigger pull on the gun as it comes from the manufacturer is for safety, according to Zelman. This understandably affected accuracy during test firing, but we found the Avenger was nevertheless capable of reasonably accurate fire during the limited test shooting we did with it. The fixed sights aid the shooter's accuracy, and

a lighter trigger pull would no doubt improve that accuracy.

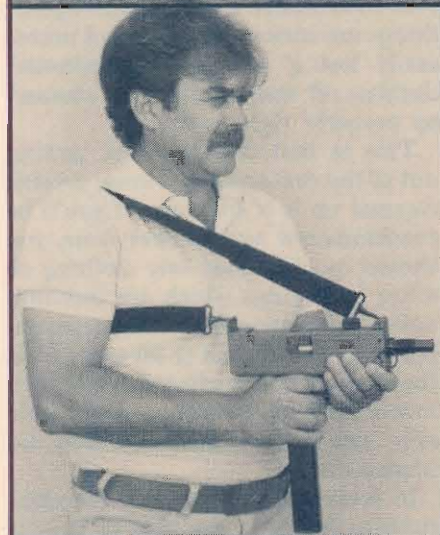
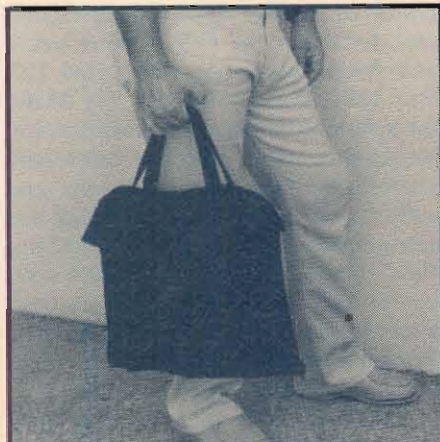
Overall functioning was superb, with

no jams or malfunctions experienced during the firing of about 100 rounds of PMC and Federal full metal jack-

Partisan Avenger .45 ACP Pistol: Tech Specs

Overall length	11 inches
Barrel length	6¼ inches
Barrel rifling	CNC Precision "Accro-cise" 6 L/G
Overall height, unloaded	6¾ inches
Total height with magazine	12⅞ inches
Frame width	1.725 inches
Frame width with quick release pin	2.25 inches
Weight empty	5 lbs., 7 ozs.
Weight with loaded magazine	7 lbs., 10 ozs.
Wall thickness of receiver	12 gauge (.110)
Sight radius	8⅞ inches
Trigger pull	6 lbs. (heavier on test gun)
Type of fire	semiautomatic, closed bolt, blowback
Safeties	manual S & F, slide action prevents sear engagement, chamber loaded indicator
Price, suggested	\$445
Distributor	Patriot Distribution Co., Dept. ASG, 2872 S. Wentworth, Milwaukee, WI 53207; (414) 769-0760

eted 230-grain ammo. We found we had mistakenly purchased a box of jacketed semi-wadcutter ammo and when we tried to fire this stuff every round jammed except those that were chambered by drawing back the heavy bolt. While the company states that certain hollowpoint ammunition (listed above) will fire well in the Avenger, it is designed to work with military



The Avenger comes with sling, one magazine and black Cordura nylon carrying which is designed not to look like a gun case.

ball ammunition. The suggested retail price of \$445 includes the gun, one magazine, a sling and a handsome black carrying case.

On the whole, we found the Avenger to be well made and built with strong steel components. As a copy of a sub-machine gun, this weapon is obviously not meant for target shooting, but fired at close range, you have a reliable, effective, powerful weapon with lot of firepower at your disposal. With a little trigger work it's certainly capable of more accurate shooting at longer ranges as well. ●

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Chemical Weapons

Continued from page 22

to place distance between you and it if you're close to it. If you have a bit of distance between you and the release site and the wind isn't moving too fast, you might be able to move at a right angle from the release so that you are no longer downwind to it. Chemical agents are diluted by the air as the wind blows. Even with a massive attack, you start getting out of danger at 600 yards away from where the original cloud of liquid contaminant fell.

Since the faster the wind blows the more quickly an area becomes decontaminated, flat areas become decontaminated more quickly than rough areas since terrain causes a drop in wind speed. And areas which are windy are safer than those with only a breeze.

Just as warm air holds more moisture than cold, it can also hold more chemical fumes than cold air. This means that warm areas remain dangerous for a shorter time than cold ones. On the flip side of things, however, this means that an area this is contaminated is more immediately dangerous if you're near it because the fumes are thicker in the air. Warm air is more dangerous but it will be safer sooner with time.

With most agents, when the temperature approaches freezing, they become very inactive with almost no evaporation taking place. Thus, in very cold weather, a heavily contaminated area can be traversed *provided* you don't become contaminated by stepping in the chemical agent while traveling through the area. You'll find a snow storm a very safe place during a chemical attack.

Rain storms come in second in safety since water absorbs many chemical agents and, for this reason, rain tends to wash chemical agent fumes out of the air while rain run-off will wash some agents off exposed areas as well. However, care must be taken to avoid run-off from contaminated areas as it may contain concentrated chemical agents.

Sandy soil will usually absorb a chemical agent making it less dangerous to walk over but very dangerous to stay on or dig in since it may retain the agent for some time beneath the surface of the soil. Paved surfaces or hard clay soil will tend to keep

chemical agents on their surfaces; such areas are very dangerous initially but are safer with time than their sandy counterparts.

Decontamination — Decontamination procedures are hard and time consuming to carry out. (See the April 1986 issue of the *American Survival Guide* or my *Surviving Major Chemical Accidents and C/B Warfare* available from Loompanics Unlimited, P.O. Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368 for a detailed look at decontamination techniques using common household chemicals.) Therefore, your best and safest route is to avoid areas which are contaminated and to discard anything that you're carrying which has been contaminated (though, with nonpersistent agents, it can be laid aside for several days after which the chemical will evaporate away).

If you don't manage to avoid getting your hide soaked in a chemical agent, things are serious but all is not necessarily lost if you get contaminated clothing off and get yourself cleaned up properly right away.

This is best done by first getting out of the contaminated area; getting cleaned up is of little use if you'll be contaminated again. That done, you should quickly shed any clothing or other belongings which are contaminated, move away from them (remembering to get upwind or far away from them), shower, and redress in uncontaminated clothing. That done, you'll probably also need to seek out first aid immediately.

In removing agents from the skin, running water — and lots of it — is a must. A shower is ideal if large areas of your skin are covered and much better than a bath (where you sit in the chemicals and they have a chance to soak through your skin). Lots of soap, detergents, and shampoo should be used since they will help to lift a chemical agent off your skin. Warm water — if available — works better than cold water for this purpose. Organic solvents like alcohol or acetone can be used to lift off agents but can be damaging to the skin; sodium carbonate (washing soda, sal soda, or laundry soda) can be mixed with water and used for decontamination and will actually neutralize some chemical agents. Remember that water or other solvents

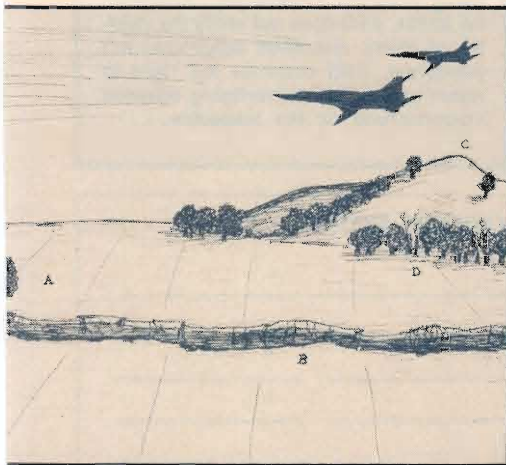
only clean agents away. They don't neutralize them so run-off will be full of agents and therefore dangerous.

It should also be noted that protective gear, even if you have it, won't guarantee your survival in a contaminated area for any great length of time. New solvents are being developed which will defeat a gas mask's filter in a short time. Even older chemical agents could be placed in such a liquid solvent and become even more dangerous. So, even if you're fully equipped, your best survival strategy is always total avoidance of exposure to chemical weapons.

That caveat in mind, since most chemical weapons are most lethal if they enter the body through the mouth and nose, a protective mask can greatly improve your chances of survival. Given the low cost of a working military surplus mask (like those from Israel which currently are going for under \$10 with a new filter from companies like Sierra Supply), having a mask in your house or car trunk is good insurance.

But, as we've seen, you don't need an expensive chemical suit or even a mask to survive a chemical attack. A little common sense and know-how can help you avoid the dangers involved.

You can survive a chemical attack with just your wits and courage. ●



Provided weather conditions do not include temperature inversion or high winds blowing into the hills, chemical weapons dropped by these planes would be most dangerous to people in the valley (A) or in the wooded area (D). After the attack, the high area (C) would tend to be safer. Chemical fumes would tend to remain in the stream bed (B) long after other areas were safe.

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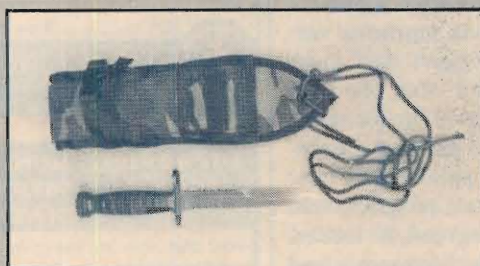
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Springfield Armory 10mm OMEGA Pistol. The new 5-inch barrel model of Springfield Armory's popular multi-caliber OMEGA pistol system. Like the extra-long 6-inch OMEGA originally offered by and still available from Springfield, the 5-inch model, shown here behind the 6-inch model, is available in three caliber choices: exciting new 10mm, .38 Super and .45ACP. The Giveaway prize will be 10mm only, but easy interchangeability of calibers can be had by purchasing .38 Super and .45 ACP barrels and recoil mechanisms, making the OMEGA the first practical multi-caliber pistol on the market. The 5-inch model was developed in response to requests from shooters who prefer the more conventional 5-inch length because of its adaptability to various add-on compensator units and to most standard pistol holsters. The 5-inch barrel is hammer forged and polygon rifled for maximum quality, accuracy and long life. The barrel is available with or without ports in all calibers. The prize gun has a ported barrel. Porting serves as a built-in compensator to reduce muzzle rise and recoil. Other features include a special lock-up system that eliminates normal barrel bushing and link found in most 1911-style pistols; patented dual extractor system allowing changing calibers without changing extractors; adjustable rear sight and interchangeable front sight; Pachmayr wraparound grips. A retail value of \$850. For more information contact Springfield Armory, Dept. ASG, 420 W. Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254; (309) 944-5631.

Kawasaki Ninja 700 one-touch start portable electric generator. Featuring super easy operation by just pushing the one-touch start button, the Ninja 700 puts out up to 700 watts of power on 120 V/60Hz AC or 12 V 8.5 A (102 watts) on DC for battery charging. It has a 2.5 liter (.66 U.S. gallon) fuel tank capacity. Engine is an air-cooled, four-stroke, 76cc (4.6 cubic inch) gasoline engine which will run about 3.8 hours on a full tank of gas. When the job is done, another touch of a button stops the engine and automatically reactivates the ignition system for instant restarts. No other generator in its class offers this kind of convenience. And none are as easy to use over the long run because a host of high-tech features like automatic choke and fuel valve systems eliminating controls to adjust during operation. The Ninja runs whisper quiet, with a tough, fully enclosed steel body and exclusive Uni-Flow cooling system ensuring that even 10 steps away the sound of the operational Ninja 700 is no louder than a normal conversation. It's so light (51.8 lbs.) and compact (20.1 x 10 x 15.3 inches) it will go just about anywhere you want to take it. The strong, built-in carry handle makes carrying it easy. U.S.E.S. approved spark arrester. There are also automatic circuit breakers on both AC and DC outlets and an oil alarm system which stops the engine and lights an indicator before oil level drops too low. Retail value: about \$550. Contact Kawasaki, Dept. ASG, 9950 Jeronimo Road, Irvine, CA 92718-2016; (714) 770-0400.

PRIZE NO. 2.



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The Tomcat folding bowie knife from SOG Specialties, Dept. ASG P.O. Box 1006, Santa Monica, CA 90406; (213) 451-4292. All stain-resistant steel construction enhances this heritage-rich 3 1/4-inch bowie blade design with exact grind lines and superior cutting capabilities. SOG's negative-draft locking system prevents accidental folding of the blade. Grips are "point positive" Kraton for a firm hold. Overall length is 8 1/2 inches. The knife comes with lanyard and dual-mount nylon sheath. Value: \$80.

Symptoms, Treatment:

Carbon Monoxide: Covert Killer

*Poisoning from a colorless, tasteless, odorless,
non-irritating gas. . .*



Field treatment for a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning includes elevating the head to reduce swelling of the brain.

— By Todd M. Stanford —

A neighbor calls you on the phone and asks for help. Her husband's having a seizure.

Upon your arrival you detect an unusual odor, like that around the airport. In answer to your inquiry the patient's wife states that it's just the kerosene heater in the basement, to keep the pipes from freezing, and what business is it of yours anyhow?

The lady's response seems a bit strange to you. You also notice the children are pale. Through further questioning you find the whole family hasn't felt good since the weather became extremely cold, the day before. Your patient has no prior history of seizure activity and has always been in good health, never complaining.

The mechanic from the shop next door comes over to your house and asks for

something for his "flu." He is complaining of nausea and a headache. He mentions he's been busy all day tuning cars in preparation for the winter. He states he'll close early today and go on home. Between the flu and the noise inside the closed up garage, he really feels "worn out."

Kerosene heaters and vehicle exhaust — what do these have in common? They produce CARBON MONOXIDE.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a clear, odorless, toxic gas having a specific gravity of .97 (the specific gravity of air is 1.00). Carbon monoxide is formed by the incomplete combustion of organic (carbon containing) materials. This can be coal, kerosene, gasoline, wood or plastic to only name a few.

As a matter of fact, carbon monoxide is itself flammable. Given the right conditions, oxygen and intense heat, carbon monoxide will oxidize very rapidly to form carbon dioxide. This is the mechanism the fire service has come to call "back draft."

A poorly ventilated fire inside a closed structure rapidly consumes the available oxygen. What remains are intense heat, and flammable products of combustion (carbon monoxide included).

When a door or window is quickly opened the oxygen rich air rushes in and a back draft explosion results.

Pound for pound of fuel, a free burning fire, well supplied with oxygen produces considerably less carbon monoxide than its less dramatic, smoldering counterpart.

A less obvious source of CO poisoning is the "safe" kerosene heaters used in so many homes these days. It must be emphasized, they are indeed safe—if the manufacturer's instructions are followed. If the heater is to be used in a closed environment, the instructions state that the windows be left cracked to facilitate improved ventilation. While the efficiency of these heaters is very high when they are adjusted properly, they still produce some carbon monoxide.

The rapidity with which exposure produces symptoms and the relatively mild distress associated with those symptoms, coupled with ease of production (for example, an automobile engine) make carbon monoxide an unfortunately attractive choice of so many people for a suicide attempt.

Automobile exhaust is approximately 1 to 7 percent carbon monoxide. In fact, this is such an effective means of self destruction that over 50 percent the suicides yearly are committed by this means.

Charcoal grills and hibachis used in unventilated areas have accounted for in excess of 40 documented deaths in recent years.

Physiological Effects — To understand the physiological effects of carbon monoxide, we will review what occurs during normal respiration.

Oxygen rich air enters the lungs during inspiration. Here the oxygen mi-



A furniture store fire in Wheeling, West Virginia. A majority of the deaths occurring in such fires are due to smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning (Heather Ziegler).

grates through the walls of the alveoli and combines chemically with hemoglobin in the blood to form oxyhemoglobin.

The blood then travels through the pulmonary vein to the heart which pumps it through the body's arterial system, until it arrives adjacent to a cell deficient in oxygen. Here the oxygen-hemoglobin bond is broken and the oxygen migrates through the cell wall. Simultaneously, carbon dioxide, produced by cell metabolism, passes through the cell wall and combines chemically with the hemoglobin to form hemoglobin carbamate which then travels the circulatory system until it eventually returns to the lungs.

Upon reaching the alveoli, the carbon dioxide-hemoglobin bond is broken, allowing the carbon dioxide to pass into the lungs and be expelled during exhalation. The process is then repeated.

This obviously is a fairly simple chemical process. Problems arise, however, when a gas, for which hemoglobin has a higher affinity than oxygen, enters the lungs. Carbon monoxide is just such a gas.

In fact, according to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) *Fire Protection Handbook*, carbon monox-

ide combines 210 times more readily with hemoglobin than does oxygen. In this case the resultant compound, carboxyhemoglobin, is carried throughout the body. Upon arrival at an oxygen deficient cell, no exchange of gasses occurs. Therefore the cell retains the carbon dioxide, becomes anoxic, and dies. The mechanism of injury of carbon monoxide poisoning is therefore hypoxia (oxygen deficiency) leading to asphyxiation.

Signs, Symptoms — Based on tests by the EPA, an atmosphere of 50 parts per million CO will produce a carboxyhemoglobin level of 6.5 percent after three hours of exertion (such as attempting to escape from a burning building). In a structure fire, the carbon monoxide level reaches 10,000 ppm within 14 minutes. One minute of exposure at this level is fatal.

Based on information obtained from a number of studies, the following signs and symptoms will be apparent in a patient suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning:

At 10 to 20 percent carboxyhemoglobinemia (presence in blood of carboxyhemoglobin), cerebral hypoxia (inadequate oxygen to the brain) will cause

Carbon Monoxide: Covert Killer

the patient to become irritable. In an attempt to adequately profuse the brain, vasodilation will occur, leading to complaints of headache.

At 20 to 30 percent, the patient will complain of a throbbing headache. Dyspnea (shortness of breath) upon moderate exertion will be apparent. The patient may appear to be pale.

At 30 to 40 percent, the preceding signs and symptoms become more severe. Nausea with emesis (vomiting) will probably be noted; also complaints of malaise ("just feel bad") and visual disturbances. Impaired thought processes may be noted in the form of loss of coordination and confusion.

At 40 to 50 percent, the prior symptoms will intensify. Sinus tachycardia (rapid heartbeat) with increased myocardial (heart tissue) irritability evidenced by the presence of ectopic (abnormal) beats (both atrial and ventricular) will be noted on a heart monitor. Tachypnea (rapid breathing) will be noted. Syncope (fainting) will most likely occur.

At 50 to 60 percent, CNS (central nervous system) manifestations become more pronounced. The patient will exhibit seizure activity. Abnormal patterns in respirations may be present. A comatose condition is expected at this level of carboxyhemoglobin.

At 60 to 70 percent, onset of ventricular fibrillation (rapid, irregular heartbeat) and respiratory arrest is expected.

At 70 percent, there is death.

As the percentage of useful hemoglobin decreases, skin color goes from normal to pale to cyanotic (blue). What has so frequently been taught as an indication of carbon monoxide poisoning, that is, the cherry red coloring of the mucosa (mucous membrane), erythema (reddish colored rash) on the body, appears to be a finding very late in the progress of the poisoning. While these have been noted in some cases relatively early in the poisoning process, the absence of these signs in no way rules out carbon monoxide toxicity.

It is interesting to note that some symptoms, particularly CNS disorders, may not appear for up to three weeks after exposure. It is for this reason that when confronted with a patient exhibiting CNS abnormalities a history must be taken. If the patient has no history of a CNS disturbance, no history of associated trauma (and in a child, no history of fever), questions

should be aimed at exposure to carbon monoxide or other toxic agents.

At special risk is the pregnant patient exposed to carbon monoxide. Studies have shown that carboxyhemoglobin levels in the baby are approximately twice that of the mother. Immediately after finishing one cigarette, carboxyhemoglobin levels of as high as 10 percent have been recorded. This would yield a fetal carboxyhemoglobin level of as much as 20 percent. The health risks to the fetus of nine months of such exposure have been well documented.

Also at special risk is the patient with chronic lung problems. This patient's gas exchange mechanism is already compromised and the inhalation of carbon monoxide only serves to compound the pre-existing problem.

Also at risk are children, due to their relatively high respiratory rate and their small volume of blood (and therefore hemoglobin).



More than half of all suicide deaths in the U.S. are by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Field Treatment — Initial action when dealing with the suspected victim of carbon monoxide poisoning is aimed at removing him from the toxic environment. Needless to say, prior to removing a victim from an environment with a high carbon monoxide level, the rescuer should don SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus). Filter masks are useless for carbon monoxide. An important axiom to remember when rescuing a victim from a potentially hazardous environment: **FIRST — PROTECT YOURSELF!**

Carboxyhemoglobin is eventually eliminated from the blood by the liver and the lungs. Field treatment is therefore directed at resolving acute problems and providing supportive therapy.

In all cases where no other condition is present that would preclude it, the victim's head should be elevated to reduce cerebral edema (swelling of the brain). In the conscious patient, 100%

oxygen should be administered by a mask with an attached oxygen reservoir. Hyperventilation should be encouraged. The patient's clothing should be loosened and he should be kept warm.

These steps will help the patient to most efficiently utilize the remaining unattached hemoglobin. Reports of studies done at major trauma centers with decompression chambers extol the benefits of hyperbaric (high pressure) oxygen therapy when used on patients suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. As with any unusual procedure, this too has its opponents.

However, in the field, such a patient can never be given too much oxygen. Stimulants are contra indicated in the earlier stages of carbon monoxide poisoning. CPR should be maintained when indicated, with this patient the same as any patient with compromised cardiac activity.

Keep in mind during your patient assessment of a carbon monoxide victim rescued from a fire that the patient is also suffering from smoke inhalation. Evaluate and treat burns appropriately. Look for singed facial and nasal hairs. Noisy respirations or breath sounds may indicate the patient has inhaled fire gasses and suffered thermal burns of his airway. Also observe the exhaled gasses for the presence of soot. Should any of these checks prove positive, the presence of bronchospasm, pulmonary edema, and/or laryngeal edema should be suspected. Endotracheal intubation may be indicated rather early in the treatment of such patients to prevent airway obstruction caused by the edema. It is extremely important to summon emergency medical responders with advanced life support capabilities. In the smoke inhalation/carbon monoxide poisoning victim, narcotic analgesics should be withheld due to their respiratory depressant effects.

Colorless, odorless, tasteless, non-irritating; carbon monoxide is indeed a covert killer. It sneaks up on its victims, lulls them into a false sense of security, and kills them.

Statistically, 62.4 percent of deaths in structure fires are due to the inhalation of smoke, carbon monoxide, etc. In excess of 3,500 deaths yearly (both accidental and suicidal), in the United States alone, are the result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Obviously, the best treatment is prevention. ●

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Staff Report

THE M65 gas mask is made by Draeger of Lubeck, Germany, a company that has been in the respirator business for decades. Draeger produced SCUBA equipment and respirators for the crews of U-boats in WWII. Today, firefighters and others use Draeger breathing apparatus, including self-contained air packs for protection against smoke and gas.

The Draeger M-65 gas mask has been chosen by law enforcement, security agencies, military and paramilitary

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Important features of the M-65 include: a five-way adjustable, quick release head harness; two curved triangular eyepieces for excellent vision; a nosepiece/exhaust valve that incorporates a speaking/exhaust diaphragm; the filter canister in the chin position for easier rifle sighting and scope use. Filters are interchangeable with all other NATO standard filters and re-

quire only 2 1/4 turns for changing. Another interesting feature is the ingenious baffling system built into the mask body that routes intake air over the eyepieces and prevents fogging.

The Draeger M-65 gas masks offered by Fed Ord are unused and come sealed in hard plastic containers with a factory sealed filter. Retail price is \$69.90 plus \$2 shipping and handling. Contact Fed Ord Inc., 1443 Potrero Ave., Dept. ASG, So. El Monte, CA 91733; (800) 423-4552. ■

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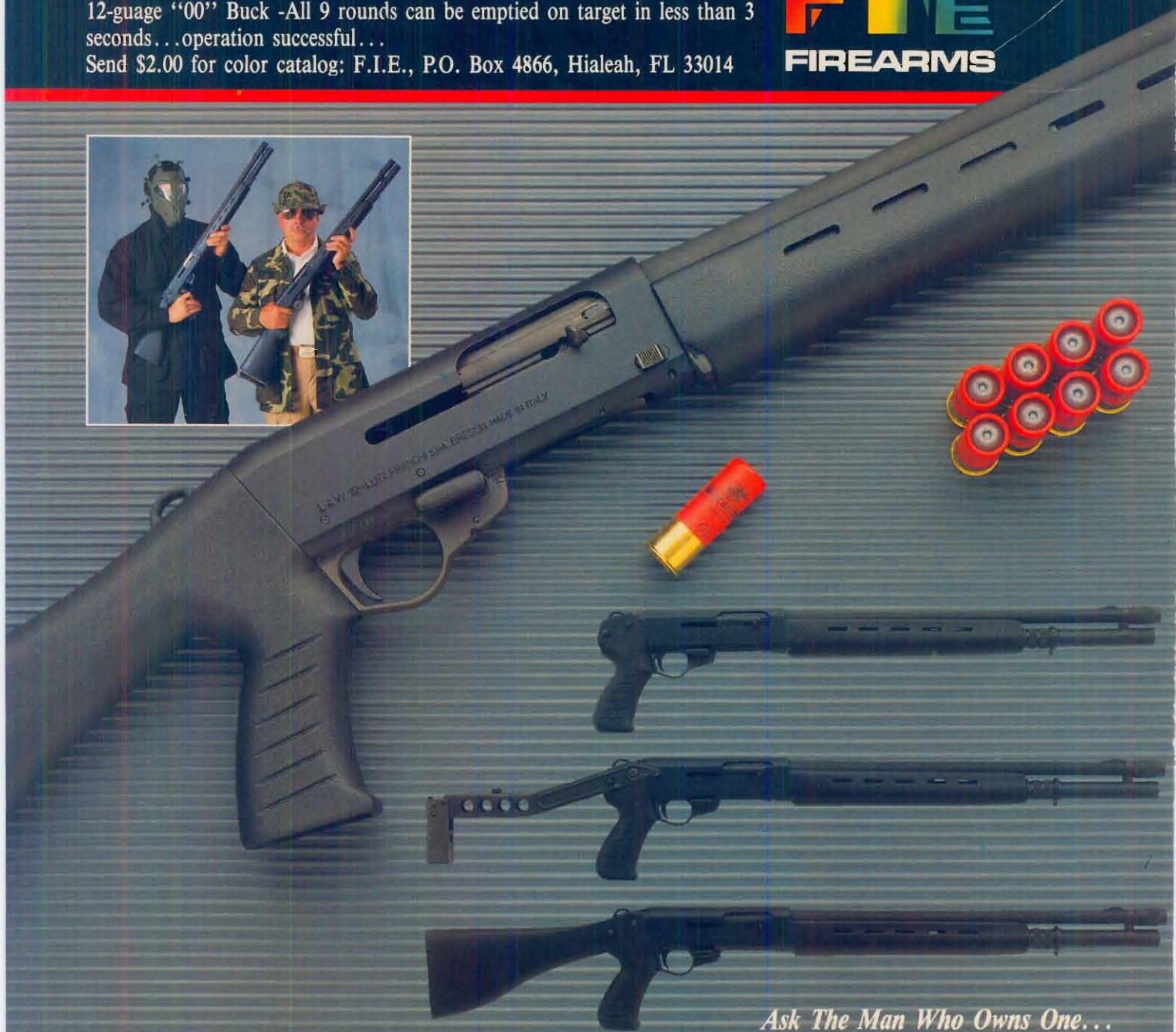
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